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Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Over the past five years, both the least developed countries and their development partners progressed in implementing the actions assigned to them in the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The least developed countries strengthened their policy and governance, reform efforts, and development partners provided increased development assistance, enhanced debt relief and some additional trade opportunities.

These efforts produced tangible results in the least developed countries. Economic growth for the group of 50 countries has risen towards the target of 7 per cent, and there has been progress towards several quantitative goals for human development. However, the improvement has been modest in many instances and, for most inhabitants of the least developed countries, the absolute levels of deprivation remain higher than in other developing countries and income poverty is largely unchanged. More substantial success remains dependent on full delivery by all stakeholders on their commitments in the Brussels Programme.

Least developed countries should continue to improve governance, including by building human and institutional capacities, and should give greater attention to gender equality, agriculture, infrastructure and HIV/AIDS. Development partners, including other developing countries, should continue to increase their support to the

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least developed countries. All developed countries should strive to reach the agreed quantitative and qualitative goals for their official development assistance to the least developed countries. Efforts to reduce external debt in the least developed countries should be sustained. Commitments to reduce the obstacles to exports from least developed countries should be translated into action without delay and least developed countries should be assisted in developing the capacity to use such opportunities. The United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes should enhance their support to the least developed countries and their efforts to improve the effectiveness of that support.

The private sector should seize the investment opportunities that are becoming available in the least developed countries. Civil society, in the least developed countries and elsewhere, should sustain its actions in support of these countries.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005.

2. The overarching objective of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 is "to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015 and promote the sustainable development of the least developed countries" (para. 6). It constitutes a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy tailored to the special needs of the least developed countries that is to be implemented through cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners. It comprises seven commitments, namely:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;

(b) Good governance at national and international levels;

(c) Building human and institutional capacities;

(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;

(e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;

(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;

(g) Mobilizing financial resources.

3. Individual least developed countries, United Nations system entities, other international organizations and regional and subregional organizations have prepared contributions to the midterm review. In addition, the least developed countries adopted a Declaration and the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Brussels Programme at their Ministerial Conference in June 2006 and the President of the General Assembly presented a summary of hearings with civil society and the private sector.[1] Furthermore, the latest annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Brussels Programme (A/61/82-E/2006/74) contains an assessment of the fulfilment by the least developed countries and their development partners of the seven commitments and a quantitative review of progress. The present report provides a midterm overview of the Programme's progress and proposals for future priorities.

II. Progress in the implementation of the Brussels Programme

A. National level

4. In 2004, the General Assembly decided to graduate Cape Verde and Maldives from the list of least developed countries after a period of smooth transition. This decision is a reflection of these countries' successful development efforts and provides testimony to the fact that, with sound national management of development and with international support, it is possible for individual least developed countries

[1] Available at http://www.un.org/ohrlls.

to break out of their poverty trap. However, following graduation, countries may need continued international support to advance their achievements.

1. Economic growth

5. Even before the adoption of the Brussels Programme, most least developed countries had begun to improve their macroeconomic management; those efforts resulted in reduced fiscal deficits, lower rates of inflation and reduced external deficits. Governments in most least developed countries have introduced a wide array of microeconomic measures, including the privatization of State-owned enterprises and an easing of regulations on businesses, aimed at stimulating the private sector and improving efficiency. Changes in external sector policies have been manifested in unilateral trade liberalization, more flexible exchange rates, currency depreciation and liberalized foreign investment regimes.

6. The economic performance of the least developed countries as a group began to strengthen during the latter 1990s, rising from around 2 per cent from 1991 to 1995 to about 5 per cent from 1996 to 2000 and 6½ per cent from 2001 to 2005. Since 2001, the least developed countries have generally grown faster than other developing countries, significantly so if China and India are excluded. In 2004 and 2005, economic growth for the group rose close to the target of 7 per cent called for in the Brussels Programme (see table 1), with at least ten individual least developed countries achieving that target; a similar number of countries had growth of less than 3 per cent in 2005, leaving the majority with growth rates in between.

Table 1
Selected indicators of progress in the least developed countries, 2000-2005

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Economic growth						
Growth of output (per cent per year)[a]	4.8	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.9
Growth of exports (current dollar prices, per cent per year)[b]	24.7	0.2	9.3	16.6	25.9	
Hunger						
Proportion of population undernourished (per cent)			19[c]			
Education (per cent)						
Primary gross enrolment rate — female	73.2	75.1	79.4	81.8	85.2	
Primary gross enrolment rate — male	84.6	86.0	90.2	92.6	96.4	
Primary completion rate — female					49.5	
Primary completion rate — male					57.2	
Secondary gross enrolment ratio — female	23.6	24.6	25.9	26.2	27.0	
Secondary gross enrolment rate — male	29.0	30.6	31.9	32.4	33.4	
Tertiary gross enrolment ratio — female	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	
Tertiary gross enrolment rate — male	4.4	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	
Youth literacy — female					56.8	
Youth literacy — male					71.0	
Gender equity/governance						
Proportion of parliamentary seats held by females	7.5		11.3			12.7

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Housing						
Slum population (millions)		140.1				
Proportion of urban population in slums (per cent)		78.2				
Access to information and communications technologies (per 100 population)[f]						
Telephone lines and cellular subscribers			1.7		3.2	
Personal computers	0.3		0.4		0.8	
Internet users	0.1		0.3		0.7	
Environmental sustainability						
Proportion of territory biologically protected	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ozone-depleting potential (ODP) tons)	4 665				2 964	
Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (ODP tons)	4 130				2 655	

[a] *World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2006*, available at www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html.
[b] UNCTAD, *Handbook of Statistics 2005*.
[c] FAO, as reflected in Millennium Indicators database.
[d] Average for 2001-2003.
[e] UNESCO, as reflected in Millennium Indicators database.
[f] ITU, as reflected in Millennium Indicators database.

7. Part of the improvement in economic performance since 2001 can be attributed to the reversal of the previous downward trend in commodity prices (see table 2). Some least developed countries have achieved double-digit rates of growth as a result of the discovery of oil and/or the rebound in oil prices. Similarly, the surge in minerals prices has resulted in new investment. These oil- and minerals-related expenditures are the primary reason for a gradual increase in the ratio of investment to gross domestic product in the least developed countries in the past few years.

Table 2
Global environment facing least developed countries, 2000-2005

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Economic growth (per cent per year, weighted average)						
World	4.0	1.4	1.8	2.6	4.0	3.2
Developed countries	3.5	1.1	1.2	1.9	3.2	2.4
Developing countries excl. least developed countries (LDCs)	5.6	2.6	3.9	5.1	6.9	6.1
World trade	10.8	-0.9	3.0	6.4	11.0	7.1
International commodity prices (index: 2000=100)						
Oil	100	84	88	102	131	183
Non-oil commodities — dollar index	100	96	97	105	126	141
— Food	100	103	102	104	119	127

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
– Tropical beverages	100	79	89	94	100	126
– Vegetable oil-seeds and oils	100	94	117	137	155	141
– Agricultural raw materials	100	96	94	112	123	132
– Minerals and metals	100	89	87	98	137	173
Manufactured exports	100	100	99	99	112	126
Access to markets of developed countries						
Proportion of exports admitted duty-free (ex arms and oil)	69	70	73	75	79	
Average tariffs of developed countries on:						
– Agricultural exports from LDCs	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.4	
– Textile exports from LDCs	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.5	
– Clothing exports from LDCs	9.4	8.7	8.6	7.7	7.5	
Financial flows						
Official development assistance from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries						
– Total ($ billion)		12.9	15.9	22.3	23.5	
– Share of DAC gross national income (per cent)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.08	
– Social sectors ($ billion)	3.8	6.8	8.3	10.4	10.7	
Debt service (share of exports (per cent))	11.3	10.1	9.1	7.9	8.2	
Foreign direct investment ($ billion)		77.5	78.0	80.5		
United Nations system expenditures on operational expenditures ($ million)	1 872.3	2 177.6	2 215.5	3 062.2	3 364.1	

2. Poverty and hunger

8. Most least developed countries have adjusted their development strategies and actions to give greater attention to poverty reduction, frequently through the preparation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, a requirement introduced by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in 1999 for debt relief under the HIPC initiative. As of 31 May 2006, 35 least developed countries had prepared at least one such Strategy Paper. In addition to a poverty-reduction goal, most Strategy Papers include targets in such related areas as malnutrition, maternal and child health, school enrolment and access to safe water. The recent experience of least developed countries provides evidence of the tenuous nature of the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction. The limited data on recent trends in poverty in least developed countries suggest that there has been a negligible decline, and even some increases, in income poverty. At present, least developed countries are considered to be the countries least likely able to achieve the goal of reducing the rate of poverty by half by 2015. Almost every least developed country, except some experiencing conflict, has been able to reduce malnutrition, but it remains unacceptably high; it is pervasive in about one fifth of least developed countries and is periodically aggravated by droughts, conflict and other such events beyond the control of those affected. Malnutrition remains acute among those under five years of age in more than one third of least developed countries.

3. Human development

9. Health and education account for an increasing proportion of Government expenditure in most least developed countries. Development partners also increased resource flows to these sectors and the joint effort is beginning to show results. For example, there are some signs of a decline in maternal mortality, although the ratio remains high in most least developed countries. Likewise, both infant and child mortality are declining, albeit only slowly in the case of infants. Polio transmission is expected to be eliminated in the least developed countries by the end of 2006. There has also been an apparent decline in new cases of HIV/AIDS in the most affected least developed countries in Africa. Nevertheless, about one-quarter of those afflicted by HIV/AIDS live in the least developed countries. The disease is primarily a matter of human well-being, but it also threatens the development and retention of human capacity. One of its secondary health effects is an increase in tuberculosis; even when HIV/AIDS is not a major cause, the incidence of tuberculosis remains high. Malaria remains similarly widespread in many least developed countries, particularly in Africa.

10. In education, there has been substantial progress towards universal primary enrolment, with consequent progress towards gender equality at this level. The data suggest less progress at the secondary and tertiary levels and in adult literacy, including with respect to gender equality. However, improvement at the primary level should contribute to better outcomes at higher levels, as well as in adult literacy, in coming years.

4. Information and communications technology

11. Access to telephones and computers in least developed countries has increased rapidly (see table 2), suggesting that the targets for telephone density and Internet connections (para. 43 (f) in the Brussels Programme) might be met. Dissemination of these technologies has reached rural areas, even the poorest. Evidence suggests that use of such technologies has had a direct impact on poverty through various channels. The least developed countries remain far behind the rest of the world in the use of new technologies but recent progress demonstrates the speed with which information and communications technologies can be introduced and how they can improve the welfare of individuals in least developed countries, including by reducing poverty and gender inequality.

5. Governance

12. Overall, there has been a diminution in conflict in the least developed countries since 2001, particularly in Africa, and this has been a critical factor in improving development prospects. Nevertheless, the least developed countries continue to suffer disproportionately from conflict, which suggests that poverty and underdevelopment, in combination with other factors, could provide a breeding ground for unrest. Of 16 United Nations peace operations active in 2006, half are in least developed countries and civil unrest or worse has erupted or festers in a number of other least developed countries. Outside Africa, recent years have seen unrest in some least developed countries in Asia, as well as periodic resurgences of violence in Haiti. Some of these cases reflect the fact that international support in post-conflict situations has not always corresponded to the long-term nature of the peacebuilding process.

13. Most least developed countries have taken steps to improve domestic governance. Elections are now almost universal, with numerous presidential and legislative elections and referendums in the least developed countries since 2001. Voter participation has generally been high and female participation and representation in elected bodies has increased. There has also been judicial and legal reform and more attention to the rule of law and human rights.

14. In most least developed countries, civil society and the public at large have been given a larger role in determining development priorities, through not only parliamentary processes but also community participation in decision-making at the local level. Civil society organizations are increasingly participating in the design and delivery of development programmes and projects and in monitoring each Government's effectiveness, as well as the extent and impact of donors' and programmes.

15. Many least developed countries have undertaken reforms of the public sector aimed at enhancing efficiency and effectiveness. The impact of public expenditure on the poor has been enhanced in many least developed countries by efforts to improve the delivery of services, measure results and provide for accountability. Reducing corruption has been one element of this endeavour.

16. In some cases, improvements in governance in individual countries are being reinforced by inter-country arrangements, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and, at the sectoral level, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which aims to strengthen accountability and ensure the prudent use of revenues from natural resources, and the Kimberley process, which aims to ensure that diamonds offered for sale on international markets were not obtained illegally from war-torn countries.

B. Regional and South-South cooperation

17. The least developed countries participate in a variety of regional cooperation arrangements with other developing countries. In Africa, the least developed countries comprise the majority in many regional and subregional arrangements, so that the focus of these groupings often coincides with the priorities of the least developed countries. In Asia, where the least developed countries lack numerical superiority, some of the subregional organizations that include both least developed countries and non-least developed countries, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, have agreed on a number of measures in favour of their least developed countries members.

18. At the global level, two South Summits have furthered South-South cooperation. Within the United Nations, such cooperation is given importance by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. A number of global-level South-South arrangements give special attention to the least developed countries. The Organization of the Islamic Conference includes 22 least developed countries and, in 2005, launched a capacity-building programme to support a number of these members. The South-South Healthcare Delivery

Programme, established as a result of the South Summit in 2000, has provided assistance to a number of least developed countries. During the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2004, developing countries launched the third round of trade negotiations under the Generalized System of Trade Preferences in which they agreed to give special consideration to least developed countries. The Negotiating Group on Market Access has elaborated four stages of negotiations, with the conclusion scheduled for November 2006.

C. Global level

1. International economic environment

19. The international environment has been generally favourable to most least developed countries since 2001. Global economic growth has been led largely by the developing countries and trade among developing countries has grown faster than their trade with developed countries. The growth in the demand for raw materials, in large measure from China, has been particularly beneficial to a number of least developed countries.

20. The five oil-exporting least developed countries have benefited from the surge in oil prices since 2003, whereas others now face higher costs of oil imports. A further eight least developed countries are mineral exporters, eight are exporters of manufactures and eight are exporters of services, with the largest number being primarily exporters of agricultural commodities. The prices of non-oil commodities have reversed their lengthy downward drift since 2001, but they have not returned to levels of the past. Prices of manufactured exports have also increased, but less than commodity prices, so that the majority of least developed countries have seen their terms of trade improve. Higher oil prices are now eroding those improvements. International tourism and air transport grew strongly in a number of least developed countries, especially some island economies. However, many of these activities are vulnerable to fluctuations in the international economic environment, such as the global slowdown of 2001, to climatic and environmental factors and to natural disasters, such as the Asian tsunami of December 2004.

2. International cooperation for development

21. Since the adoption of the Brussels Programme, there has been a resurgence in international cooperation for development and the emergence of a wide degree of consensus on the actions required to achieve development, as reflected in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation. As part of the follow-up to earlier United Nations conferences, global meetings were convened to address the special situation of the small island developing States (of which 12 are least developed countries) and the landlocked developing countries (16 of which are also least developed countries). There has also been a continuing expansion of programmes to confront specific development challenges facing the world's poorest, such as those included in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives, the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and an array of others. Meanwhile, the international financial institutions have focused more keenly on poverty reduction and a number of donor Governments have adjusted their international assistance programmes to give greater attention to the

poorest countries and peoples. This sea change in the environment for international cooperation for development has been heavily oriented towards the poorest countries and peoples and different subsets of the least developed countries are among the main intended beneficiaries of many of the new initiatives. These related activities therefore complement and reinforce the Brussels Programme.

3. Official development assistance

22. The World Summit of September 2005 reiterated the call to donors to achieve the target in the Brussels Programme of from 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the gross national income (GNI) of donor countries for official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries. Measured in 2003 prices, ODA to the least developed countries rose by about 75 per cent between 2001 and 2004 and is likely to have increased further in 2005. However, ODA from developed countries to least developed countries was only 0.08 per cent of the former's GNI in 2004; seven donors met the 0.20 per cent target and a further two the 0.15 per cent target. Although not yet reflected in expenditures, there have been several commitments of additional ODA since 2004.[2] The least developed countries will be major beneficiaries of these new commitments.

23. Some innovative sources of development finance have moved from concepts to implementation since the adoption of the Brussels Programme. An International Finance Facility for Immunization is to become operational in 2006, some countries have decided to introduce an air ticket levy to mobilize resources for development and a system of advanced commitments to encourage the development of vaccines for tropical diseases is proceeding.

24. An increasing proportion of the external assistance for least developed countries is being directed to education and health (including water and sanitation); these sectors accounted for about a quarter of country-allocable donor commitments in 2004, i.e., more than the 20/20 goal mentioned in the Brussels Programme.

25. All entities of the United Nations system continue to give high priority to least developed countries, as reflected in their individual reports to the General Assembly.[3] Within the Secretariat, the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in 2002 by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Secretary-General has given high visibility to issues of concern to least developed countries and has enhanced mobilization of international support. At the field level, the United Nations system has a resident coordinator and country team in every least developed country except some Pacific islands. The reforms under the auspices of the United Nations Development Group have increased the synergies and effectiveness of the system, strengthening the support provided to least developed countries in their efforts to develop and implement country-owned development strategies and poverty reduction programmes. Quantitatively, the expenditures of the United Nations system on operational activities for development in least developed countries were 80 per cent higher in 2004 than in 2000.

26. Other developing countries are increasing resource flows to the least developed countries, including through South-South arrangements. Evidence points to growing flows of assistance from China. India is among other developing

[2] See OECD, *Journal on Development: Development Co-operation Report 2005* (Paris, 2006).

countries that are increasing their assistance to least developed countries. Information and communications technologies, technical assistance and training and educational opportunities are growing areas of South-South support for the least developed countries.

27. The quality of aid has improved, with progress towards country-ownership of internationally supported development activities and recognition by donors that conditionality is usually ineffective. Most ODA for the least developed countries is now provided in the context of an agreed Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper which, in principle, is prepared by the Government in collaboration with representatives of civil society and other stakeholders within the country. Donors are more willing to provide budgetary support and fund development activities undertaken by non-governmental actors.

28. Further progress towards improving the quality of aid is expected. In March 2005, over 100 countries and development institutions adopted the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which identified four principles for donor assistance, enumerated 12 indicators to measure improvements in the quality of aid and set 2010 as the target date to achieve five goals in these areas. The European Union has set its own additional targets, largely aimed at reducing the managerial burden of aid on recipient countries.

4. External debt

29. Further measures were taken to reduce the external debt burden of several least developed countries. The ratio of debt service to exports of goods and services for the least developed countries as a group fell by about half between 1990 and 2004 and should decline further as a result of subsequent measures. The Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative has been extended until the end of 2006 and the list of eligible countries has been revised. Of the 40 countries that are now considered eligible for assistance under the Initiative, 32 are least developed countries. As an additional measure, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative was created in 2005 to cancel the debt owed by the heavily indebted poor countries to their major multilateral lenders. Of the 32 eligible least developed countries, 13 had reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative's completion point and were receiving irrevocable debt relief as of May 2006, including full multilateral debt cancellation under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. A further nine least developed countries were receiving interim relief on their debt service payments and could receive full debt cancellation if they meet the necessary criteria. Political instability or special financial factors are impeding the consideration of the remaining cases. At the bilateral level, China has announced that it will cancel all its outstanding low-interest loans to a number of heavily indebted poor countries, including least developed countries, and India has also forgiven the debt of some least developed countries.

5. Private sector financial flows

30. Both foreign direct investment inflows and workers' remittances to Least Developed Countries are rising. Foreign direct investment began to expand in the latter part of the 1990s and has doubled since 2000. Much of this increase has, however, been prompted by discoveries of oil and higher mineral prices and has been concentrated in a small number of Least Developed Countries. The sources and

nature of foreign direct investment inflows are becoming more diversified as flows from developing countries increase and host Governments increasingly cooperate with the foreign business sector, sometimes in public-private partnerships. Inflows of workers' remittances to Least Developed Countries have significant potential for contributing directly to the alleviation of poverty and social integration, as well as to broader national development objectives.

31. Within developed countries, there has been a surge in private philanthropy and other support for the poorest developing countries. These activities focus on the delivery of services directly to the poor and often adopt innovative approaches. They have helped to introduce new techniques into the poverty alleviation practices of other agencies. Individuals from around the world continue to provide services to Least Developed Countries on a volunteer basis; in many instances, the costs of placing volunteers from developing countries are met by international and bilateral agencies in a form of triangular cooperation.

6. International trade

32. The adoption of the Brussels Programme took place during a period of optimism regarding the possibility of improving the international trading environment for the Least Developed Countries. The European Union introduced its "Everything but Arms" initiative for Least Developed Countries prior to the Brussels Conference and a number of other developed countries have eliminated or reduced the barriers to imports from all or some of the Least Developed Countries under the Generalized System of Preferences or a special regime (such as the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act). The negotiations under the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda have made limited progress, although the Least Developed Countries have been the beneficiaries of the more significant outcomes to date. At the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting in December 2005, developed countries agreed to eliminate duties and quotas on imports from the Least Developed Countries accounted for by 97 per cent of each developed country's tariff lines. This arrangement will become effective by 2008 or no later than the start of the implementation of the outcome of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. The Meeting also agreed that developing countries that were in a position to do so should adopt the same practice. The shortcoming of this arrangement is that, because most Least Developed Countries export only a relatively small number of products, the 3 per cent of tariff lines that are excluded could cover a large proportion of each Least Developed Country's exports.

33. The impact of the end of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on 1 January 2005, in particular its quota system, has been mixed: a few Least Developed Countries have been able to increase their exports of textiles substantially but several smaller producers have been unable to compete under the liberalized regime. The unilateral tariff cuts by developed and developing countries since the adoption of the Brussels Programme appear to have been of limited benefit to Least Developed Countries.[3] Moreover, subsidies and non-tariff measures for agriculture in developed countries continue to act as a disincentive to agricultural production and exports in Least Developed Countries. For example, the agreement of the developed countries at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting to abolish export subsidies on cotton in 2006 and to allow duty- and quota-free imports

[3] See World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2006* (Washington, D.C., 2006), table 3.5.

of cotton from Least Developed Countries is a step forward but is tempered by the fact that there was no agreement on eliminating the subsidies on domestic production. This experience highlights the need for special treatment within the global trading system for vulnerable economies, such as Least Developed Countries. Among the measures to help countries cope with the possible impact on the balance of payments of trade liberalization by trading partners, including the erosion of preferences, the International Monetary Fund introduced the Trade Integration Mechanism in 2004. Another difficulty is that, because they lack the infrastructure and productive capacity required to increase and diversify the production of exports, many Least Developed Countries are unable to utilize fully all the trade concessions that are already available to them. Recognizing this impediment, the Group of Seven announced increased funding for aid-for-trade in December 2004. Subsequently, the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting voiced support for "Aid for Trade", particularly for the Least Developed Countries, and established a Task Force to make recommendations on an enhanced Integrated Framework.[4] World Trade Organization members and participating agencies have since adopted the recommendations of the Task Force,[5] which address its scope, management and operations, governance, and monitoring and evaluation.

III. Priorities for future action

34. Most of the actions that need to be taken, both by Least Developed Countries and by development partners, to achieve the goals of the Brussels Programme are already detailed in the Programme itself or elsewhere. The challenge lies less in identifying new or additional actions than in ensuring that the agreed actions are implemented as quickly and widely as possible wherever they are appropriate. In many cases, improved results will depend in large measure on the availability of additional resources in various forms, such as sustaining the improvements in the provision of education and health services. In other cases, the challenge will be to facilitate or stimulate actions that will contribute to development, notably raising investment.

A. National level

35. Despite the need to attune actions to national conditions, experience to date suggests that there are a number of cross-cutting issues and a number of areas of activity that deserve special focus in many Least Developed Countries.

1. Nationally-owned development strategies

36. The Brussels Programme provides an overall framework and a menu of more than 150 potential actions to be taken by Least Developed Countries. There is also an array of other international agreements and sectoral programmes that relate to

[4] The Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF), a joint undertaking of IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, WTO and the World Bank, was created in 1997 and revamped in 2001 to mainstream trade into the LDCs' national development plans, to assist in the coordinated delivery of trade-related technical assistance, undertake trade-related capacity-building and to address supply constraints.

[5] See http://docsonline.wto.org/DDFDocuments/t/WT/ifsc/W15.doc.

Least Developed Countries, including proposals and recommendations on the policies and actions necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. **The overriding objective for the remainder of the Brussels Programme must be to implement these various proposals to the extent and in a manner that is appropriate to each Least Developed Country. To this end and in conformity with the principle of country ownership, each Least Developed Country should prepare, as agreed at the World Summit, a nationally owned development strategy that translates global and sectoral goals into country-specific priorities, policies and actions appropriate to national circumstances.** These strategies should be anchored in 10-year horizons and a comprehensive assessment of each country's needs. Instead of targeting incremental improvements, given binding and often unchanging resource constraints, each country's strategy should identify obstacles, financial or otherwise, to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They should then identify the full set of investments and policies needed to overcome these obstacles and to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

37. **Ownership of these national strategies should devolve not only to the country itself but to the intended beneficiaries, namely communities and individuals. Their preparation should be as decentralized and inclusive as possible, involving the participation of civil society and local authorities and final endorsement by national legislative bodies. The strategies should focus on implementation and results and should include estimates of the financial and other resources required, schedules for implementation, trajectories of expected results and indicators of progress. They should be made widely known within the country and should be used as a basis for public accountability of all participants in the development process. Development partners should use them as the basis for their cooperation and support.**

2. Governance

38. **Least Developed Countries should build on their achievements in strengthening governance. As part of this effort, Least Developed Countries should aim to have separate legislative and executive branches of government. All citizens should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, including through the involvement of civil society in public decision-making. The fundamental freedoms and human rights of the individual should be guaranteed so that personal initiatives can contribute to socio-economic development. Governments should promote a culture of lawfulness and enforce it through an independent judiciary and a just and effective system of crime prevention and criminal justice.**

39. **Least Developed Countries should continuously strive to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all public institutions and government administrative procedures, including through e-Government. Fiscal and administrative matters should consider decentralization, as appropriate and possible, to encourage regional and local development, to enable Governments to respond to needs and to allow for widespread participation in government decision-making. Policies and procedures should be fully transparent to ensure that Governments and other public bodies are accountable for their activities. All Least Developed Countries should sign, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and should be assisted in retrieving funds that have been expropriated through corruption.**

40. In most Least Developed Countries, one of the causes of weak governance is the lack of a critical mass of skilled personnel in the public sector, exacerbated by fiscal stringency, the effects of outmigration (brain drain) and HIV/AIDS. **Governments of Least Developed Countries, with the support of their development partners, should endeavour to build human capacity in the public sector through training and other forms of capacity-building for both those entering and those already in the public service.** Earlier efforts to reduce the role of the Government in the economy and the focus on reforms and short-term macroeconomic equilibrium weakened the capacity of Governments to conceive and implement long-term development policies and programmes. **As part of the strengthening of the public service, the Governments of Least Developed Countries should build the capacity to undertake the longer-term strategic analysis that is required to achieve the objectives of the Brussels Programme. At the same time, Least Developed Countries should sustain their efforts to implement sound economic policies and to create domestic conditions that foster development, particularly investment.**

41. Increases in official development assistance, improvements in donor procedures and full ownership of their own development programmes will increase the responsibility of Least Developed Countries to demonstrate that they can take full and effective advantage of these new opportunities. **Strengthening the national aid machinery should be part of the Government's capacity-building effort.**

42. In many Least Developed Countries, one of the government functions that suffered neglect and decline in the era of public sector parsimony was the collection of adequate, timely and reliable economic and social data, both at the national level and disaggregated by region, gender or other sub-groups of the population. **Governments of Least Developed Countries should undertake, with the assistance of their development partners, statistical capacity-building to strengthen their ability to assess needs, to formulate and implement development policies and programmes and to monitor the results.**

3. Peace and security

43. **A priority for Least Developed Countries that remain embroiled in conflict and for the international community must be to secure durable peace within the country. As part of the international focus on the poorest countries, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission should consider giving particular attention to Least Developed Countries in, or recovering from, conflict. In the case of post-conflict Least Developed Countries, the international community should not only provide short-term peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance but also make long-term commitments to peacebuilding in order to ensure that, contrary to several past cases, violence does not return. Because of their susceptibility to conflict, global efforts to reduce the availability of small arms should give special attention to the Least Developed Countries, including those where stability prevails.**

4. Gender mainstreaming

44. Countries have yet to make full use of the potential contribution that women make to their development, and women usually do not share equally in the fruits of development. These imbalances are particularly disturbing in the Least Developed

Countries where there is an acute shortage of resources and where women should be the primary target of efforts to reduce poverty, because they constitute a disproportionately large number of the poor.

45. **Least Developed Countries should fully mainstream gender into their development strategies, policies, programmes and projects. Gender-mainstreaming should apply to all age groups, at all levels of society and in both the public and the private sectors. Women's interests and concerns should be fully and explicitly integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all development activities, and women should participate fully and equally in all these processes. Gender-disaggregated data and information should be assembled to facilitate these activities.**

46. **All Least Developed Countries should adopt and fully implement all international norms and instruments relating to women, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. At the national level, Governments should adopt laws and enforcement mechanisms that promote gender equality and that place the rights of women on a par with those of men. Both women and men should have full access to justice and redress for violations of their human rights and the Government should disseminate information about laws, regulations and means of protection and redress for gender discrimination.**

5. Increasing productive capacity through investment in infrastructure

47. The Brussels Programme calls for the rate of investment in Least Developed Countries to be raised to 25 per cent and attaches particular importance to investment in infrastructure, including social infrastructure. However, the increase in investment in most Least Developed Countries has been marginal, with the average remaining about 20 per cent, and infrastructure remains inadequate. **As part of the effort to build supply capacity and address supply-side constraints, both the Least Developed Countries and their development partners, including the private sector, should strive to increase investment in physical infrastructure, including for social purposes.**

48. Transportation and communications infrastructure is poor in most Least Developed Countries. For many years, there has been little improvement, and frequently deterioration, because of lack of funding for maintenance, in roads, railways, postal systems and air services, with rural areas being the most disadvantaged. Effective internal transport systems are necessary as part of the effort to provide producers with access to larger markets for their goods and to ensure that consumers everywhere benefit from easier access to a wider range of goods and services, including such public services as health and education. For landlocked Least Developed Countries, the problem of poor transportation and communications is frequently aggravated by inefficient transit arrangements. **Most Least Developed Countries need more effective transportation networks, both within and between countries. Investment in physical facilities needs to be complemented by more efficient management and transit systems.**

49. Most Least Developed Countries have insufficient supplies of the energy necessary to accelerate development and reduce poverty. **Least Developed Countries should increase their investment not only in electric generating capacity but also in transmission and distribution to ensure that energy reaches**

the poor, particularly in rural areas. Greater efforts should be made to use renewable energy. Other developing countries in a position to do so should assist Least Developed Countries in developing their energy sector by providing access to technologies and to their own experience in financing and managing the energy sector.

50. In the social sectors, efforts to meet immediate needs through improvements in the provision of services have received priority over improvements in infrastructure. The quantity and quality of schools, medical centres and similar facilities remain inadequate in most Least Developed Countries, particularly in rural areas. Similarly, efforts to improve access to water and sanitation have been concentrated on providing safe water in urban areas. **There remains an acute need for investment to increase education and health facilities, to provide safe water to rural areas and to improve sanitation throughout the Least Developed Countries. The financing of these infrastructure needs can be met from a variety of sources. Development partners should allocate additional resources to long-term investment in infrastructure in the Least Developed Countries. At the same time, the Least Developed Countries should adopt measures to encourage domestic savings and to increase the mobilization of domestic financial resources for such purposes, including through improved financial intermediation and more comprehensive taxation. Meeting a country's infrastructure needs should not be regarded as solely a public responsibility. Particularly in transport, communications and energy, the private sector or public-private partnerships can be considered for this purpose. All such arrangements, however, require an effective system of public oversight and regulation to ensure adequate service, reasonable prices and the necessary maintenance of infrastructure.**

6. Agriculture and rural development

51. Notwithstanding continuing rural-urban migration, the majority of the population in the Least Developed Countries lives in rural areas, remains dependent on agriculture for a livelihood and accounts for a disproportionately large number of the poor. Most evidence suggests that rural poverty is not yet declining, perhaps because the rural sector has suffered relative neglect in most Least Developed Countries. **Both Least Developed Countries and development partners should give special attention to agricultural and rural development and to reducing rural poverty, including through such immediate measures as providing improved seeds and fertilizers. National development strategies should aim to stimulate investment in rural areas, including by increasing the availability of credit to farmers, small businesses and the rural poor, including through the strengthening of microfinance institutions.** As proposed by the World Summit,[9] **development partners should support long-term rural development through, among other measures, trade-capacity building and commodity development projects. As also called for by the World Summit, Least Developed Countries in Africa should strive to achieve an African "Green Revolution" by implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme prepared under the auspices of New Partnership in Africa's Development; development partners should also support this effort.**

[9] General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 46.

7. Managing the benefits from the exploitation of natural resources

52. If present global market conditions persist, the exploitation of natural resources could offer great potential for several Least Developed Countries, but it also poses risks. In a number of Least Developed Countries, higher oil and minerals earnings have already boosted government revenues and raised the possibility of ineffective or inflationary government expenditure. At the same time, increased foreign currency receipts may cause the exchange rate to appreciate, putting other export sectors at a disadvantage in world markets. Oil and mineral prices are also volatile and may decline substantially in the future, possibly creating a boom-bust situation. Finally, mineral exploitation has to be viewed from a long-term perspective. **To address such concerns, Governments of Least Developed Countries rich in natural resources should:**

(a) Address the macroeconomic consequences of their new-found wealth;

(b) Ensure that the exploitation of their mineral resources does not put other sectors of the economy at risk;

(c) Use their revenues from mineral exploitation effectively and equitably and in a way that contributes to a reduction in poverty;

(d) Establish counter-cyclical stabilization arrangements to neutralize the impact of fluctuations in international commodities markets on government revenue and export earnings;

(e) Exercise responsibility with respect to the country's future by ensuring that exploitation is undertaken in an environmentally sustainable manner and by establishing a mechanism that will provide some of the benefits derived from the depletion of the country's natural resources to succeeding generations.

8. HIV/AIDS

53. Since the adoption of the Programme, the means of controlling and treating HIV/AIDS have expanded and improved and substantial additional donor resources have been committed to HIV/AIDS activities in developing countries. Evidence indicates that a robust political commitment, particularly among the country's leadership, is essential for a successful national HIV/AIDS prevention programme. **Governments in all Least Developed Countries that have not yet done so, including those where the disease has not yet reached pandemic proportions, should urgently adopt and implement a comprehensive national programme to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. In order to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS, Governments should devise plans, with target dates, to ensure that reproductive and sexual health services are able to provide universal access to information, education and counselling regarding HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Reproductive health care services should include HIV testing and the supply and distribution of means to prevent transmission, including anti-retroviral drugs and infant-feeding counselling during and after pregnancy for women living with HIV/AIDS.** In addition to prevention, international assistance for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in developing countries is beginning to become available in meaningful amounts. As part of their needs-based strategies, **Governments of Least Developed Countries should therefore devise plans and programmes aiming to make HIV treatment available to all afflicted**

by the disease. Attention should also be given to reducing the vulnerability of persons indirectly affected by the disease, in particular orphaned and vulnerable children and older persons.

B. Regional cooperation

54. Regional cooperation and integration are vital for the economies of the Least Developed Countries and can be accomplished through bilateral or multilateral arrangements among countries. There are several such arrangements already in place in Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions, such as the African Union, Southern African Development Community, Economic Community of West African States, East African Community, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum. These arrangements need to be expanded, revitalized or made more effective to take into account the Brussels Programme and its implementation. In this context, the United Nations regional commissions, along with the United Nations resident coordinator system, can provide assistance and guidance where necessary. In addition, intergovernmental regional and subregional bodies can play critical roles in determining the success of regional cooperation and integration.

55. At the project level, Least Developed Countries should give greater attention to the possibility of joint ventures among subgroups of Least Developed Countries and with other developing countries, especially with neighbouring countries and in activities where there are economies of scale. Such possibilities range from energy and transport systems to trade and transit arrangements between neighbouring countries to centralized research and development pertaining to development challenges that are especially relevant to the Least Developed Countries, e.g., in agriculture.

C. South-South cooperation

56. The Least Developed Countries should continue to receive special attention in South-South cooperation. Developing countries should welcome relevant Least Developed Countries into regional cooperation arrangements and activities and give them special consideration where appropriate. Higher-income developing countries should adopt measures akin to those that the group of developing countries advocates for the developed countries. For example, developing countries in a position to do so, particularly those benefiting from the strength in commodity markets, including oil, and the larger economies, should consider expanding the support that some already provide to the Least Developed Countries. In some cases, such assistance can be provided in kind, in the form of technical assistance or other inputs. Because of the structural disadvantages and other development challenges of Least Developed Countries, other developing countries should consider extending special and differential treatment to them in international trade, such as duty- and quota-free access to their markets, as some of them already have.

D. Global level

1. Official development assistance

57. **Development partners should fully recognize recipient country ownership of development policies. Official development assistance (ODA) should be sufficient to ensure that all Least Developed Countries that pursue the policies and actions identified in the Brussels Programme, the Monterrey Consensus and related undertakings are able to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and goals in the Brussels Programme. To this end, all donor countries should honour their recent pledges to increase their ODA and donor countries that have not yet done so should strive to ensure that their ODA to the Least Developed Countries reaches 0.15-0.20 per cent of their GNI. ODA programmes should have a long-term perspective and ODA flows should be correspondingly more continuous, predictable and assured. The content, as well as the quantity, of aid programmes should accord with each Least Developed Country's own estimate of its needs; donors should avoid prescribing development modes, policies or actions, either directly or through conditions attached to their support.**

58. The international community has several mechanisms for coordination and cooperation in the implementation of assistance programmes at the country level, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the common country assessment (CCA) and bilateral assistance mechanisms. This pluralism of mechanisms, together with a multitude of different aid procedures, is overburdening the limited Government capacity in Least Developed Countries. **Donors should continue their efforts to improve the effectiveness of ODA, including by accepting the recipient country's own development strategy as a basis for their assistance, streamlining their own procedures and reducing the administrative burden on recipient countries. The use of quantitative targets to monitor progress in this area should be pursued.**

2. External debt

59. **Progress with external debt relief should be continued, so that the debts of all Least Developed Countries are reduced to levels that prevent their being an impediment to development. All eligible Least Developed Countries should be provided with the debt relief envisioned under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative as soon as possible. Creditors should correspondingly ensure that all the necessary financial commitments are met. In order to ensure that excessive indebtedness does not return, future external assistance to these countries, from both traditional donors and others, should be provided on a grant basis. In addition, Least Developed Countries should ensure that they have in place an effective debt management system and the international financial institutions should refine the methodology for determining debt sustainability in the Least Developed Countries.**

3. Trade

60. It is generally recognized that, notwithstanding any special measures for the Least Developed Countries, the more advanced countries will be the main beneficiaries among the developing countries of the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, particularly since some existing preferences will be eroded. **In line with the principle of special and differential treatment, non-Least Developed Countries should give attention to measures to enhance the trading prospects of Least Developed Countries, including providing transitional support to the Least Developed Countries when trade barriers are reduced. Efforts should also be made to accelerate accession to the WTO of those Least Developed Countries that have applied for membership. All developed countries should grant duty- and quota-free access to all imports from all Least Developed Countries, without exception, by 2008. They should also reduce, and set a date for eliminating, all non-tariff barriers to exports from Least Developed Countries, including subsidies to their own exports and domestic production. Further efforts should be made to simplify and harmonize rules of origin and trade procedures imposed by developed countries on imports from Least Developed Countries and to make them more transparent and understandable to exporters in Least Developed Countries.**

61. Trade preferences from partner countries will yield results only if there are complementary actions to develop the domestic production of goods and services that can be traded. In addition to domestic actions in specific sectors identified above, **donors should increase support to the development of export capacity through such mechanisms as the enhanced Integrated Framework, the Common Fund for Commodities and the Aid-for-Trade initiative. All stakeholders should contribute to ensuring full implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Integrated Framework; support from the Integrated Framework should be available to all Least Developed Countries. Foreign direct investment can play a role in developing export capacity by providing access to the technologies and markets often required to export successfully.**

4. Global governance

62. **The Least Developed Countries' representation and participation in international financial institutions and multilateral standard-setting bodies should be enhanced as part of the ongoing effort to strengthen the role of developing countries and economies in transition in these areas.**

5. The United Nations system

63. **The United Nations system should sustain its support to the Least Developed Countries by bolstering their capacity to develop and implement national development strategies and by improving its own effectiveness, including through strengthened integration and harmonization of the system's activities within the Least Developed Countries.** In regard to coordination by the United Nations system, although much has been achieved in the past five years, there is a continuing need for support and coordination at the country level, a challenge that will need to be further addressed.

IV. Conclusion

64. **The Brussels Programme should remain the framework for national and international efforts to advance development in the Least Developed Countries. In particular, the partnership that the Brussels Programme embodies must itself be sustained, with mutual recognition of the efforts, successes and challenges of all involved. The focus of attention of this partnership for the balance of the duration of the Brussels Programme must be on the full implementation of the agreed commitments and actions contained in the Brussels Programme and related undertakings, attuned to country circumstances and with special consideration given to the areas identified in the preceding section.**

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Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

After paragraph 53, insert a new subsection 9, *reading*

9. Tourism

53 (a). Tourism in least developed countries is still limited to 2.6 per cent of the world market share in terms of international tourist arrivals and international tourism receipts. However, the growth in international tourist arrivals has been faster in least developed countries than in the developing countries as a whole: 42.5 per cent in the former and 30.8 per cent in the latter from 2001 to 2005 (15.8 per cent for the world). The same is true in terms of international tourism receipts: 50.3 per cent growth in least developed countries and 40.6 per cent in the developing world from 2001 to 2004 (33.2 per cent for the world). **Sustainable development of tourism in least developed countries requires building national capacities within the framework of a clear long-term strategy and carefully designed master plans taking into account environmental, social and cultural constraints. Governments and other stakeholders should encourage private corporations to comply fully with their social responsibility in the least developed countries, and where necessary establish appropriate mechanisms to enable the private corporate tourism sector to do likewise.**

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Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 60/140. It reviews steps taken by the Assembly during its sixtieth session to promote the achievement of gender equality through the gender mainstreaming strategy, by assessing the extent to which resolutions have taken into account gender perspectives and made specific recommendations for action. The report reviews from a gender perspective the resolutions submitted by the Committees of the Assembly as well as outcomes of major events, including the 2005 World Summit, the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. It further reviews the extent to which selected documentation, submitted as reports and notes of the Secretary-General, has supported attention to gender perspectives in the deliberations and outcomes of the Assembly.

* A/61/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/140, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council[1] and the Commission on the Status of Women[2] on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and on the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and to recommend further measures to enhance implementation. The present report has been prepared in response to this mandate.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted the efforts of its Main Committees to pay attention to gender issues, and resolved to intensify such efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, as well as in future United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes. The present report reviews steps taken by the Assembly during its sixtieth session to promote the achievement of gender equality through the gender mainstreaming strategy, by assessing the extent to which resolutions have taken into account gender perspectives and made specific recommendations for action. The report reviews from a gender perspective outcomes of major events, including the 2005 World Summit, the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. The report further provides a review of the extent to which selected documentation submitted to the Assembly in reports and notes of the Secretary-General has supported consideration of gender perspectives in the deliberations and outcomes of the Assembly.

II. Implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences and summits

A. 2005 World Summit — High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, New York, 14-16 September 2005

3. In the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session in 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women emphasized that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.[3] The Commission stressed the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective at the 2005 World Summit. The Declaration was transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly,[4] which welcomed the outcome in resolution 60/140. The Assembly emphasized that full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit.

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[1] The relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/2006/65) focused on capacity-building and training for gender mainstreaming.

[2] Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2006/2).

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[4] See Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232 of 21 July 2005.

4. Heads of State and Government attending the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed that gender equality is essential to advance development and peace and security (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 12). The Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies were encouraged to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization (ibid., para. 166). World leaders supported stronger system-wide coherence by ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes, including gender [equality], are taken into account in decision-making (ibid., para. 169).

5. Gender perspectives were considered in several thematic sections of the World Summit Outcome, in particular in section II, Development. In the subsection entitled "Gender equality and the empowerment of women", world leaders expressed the conviction that progress for women is progress for all. They reaffirmed the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly as an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. They resolved to eliminate gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date, and at all educational levels by 2015; guarantee the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property, and ensure secure tenure of property and housing; ensure equal access to reproductive health; promote equal access to labour markets, sustainable employment and adequate labour protection; ensure equal access to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology; eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence, including by ending impunity and ensuring the protection of women and girls, during and after armed conflicts; and promote increased representation of women in Government decision-making bodies, including through ensuring their equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process (ibid., para. 58).

6. The importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality was recognized, and world leaders undertook to actively promote gender mainstreaming in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender [equality] (ibid., para. 59).

7. Also in section II, world leaders reaffirmed in the context of domestic resource mobilization that gender equality and issues such as a commitment to just and democratic societies are essential and mutually reinforcing (ibid., para. 24 (*b*)). Secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training should be expanded, especially for girls and women, and support for developing country efforts to eliminate gender inequality and improve girls' education was reaffirmed (ibid., paras. 43 and 44). World leaders also resolved to make full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women, a central objective of national and international policies and national development strategies (ibid., para. 47). They committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, integrating that goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals (ibid., para. 57 (*g*)). They also emphasized the need to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance, sound economic management and gender equality (ibid., para. 68).

8. In section III, Peace and collective security, world leaders stressed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in peacebuilding. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. They also underlined the importance of integrating a gender perspective, and of women having the opportunity for equal participation in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase women's role in decision-making. A commitment was made to elaborating and implementing strategies against gender-based violence (ibid., para. 116).

9. In section IV, Human rights and the rule of law, world leaders undertook to advance the human rights of women and children, including by bringing gender and child protection perspectives into the human rights agenda. They also called upon States to continue efforts to eradicate discriminatory policies and practices, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality (ibid., paras. 124, 128 and 134 (*d*)).

10. Other subsections of the World Summit Outcome, such as Financing for development; Trade; Global economic decision-making; Sustainable development; Science and technology; Migration; Peacekeeping; Sanctions; Transnational crime, which included trafficking; Democracy; and Refugee protection, did not address gender perspectives.

11. In follow-up to the World Summit, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/180, called upon the Peacebuilding Commission to integrate a gender perspective into all of its work. The Commission was encouraged to consult with civil society, non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations engaged in peacebuilding activities.

12. General Assembly resolution 60/251 on the Human Rights Council made no references to gender equality or women's human rights.

13. In its resolution 60/265 on follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, the General Assembly reaffirmed commitments in the World Summit Outcome from paragraphs 24 (*b*), 47, 57 (*g*), and 58 (see paras. 5 and 7 above), including by reaffirming that full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

14. General Assembly resolution 60/283 entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger organization worldwide" did not integrate gender perspectives.

15. As part of the ongoing follow-up to the World Summit, a number of reports were submitted by the Secretary-General; two of these reports[5] paid attention to gender perspectives: his report on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General (A/60/430) included a section entitled "Further steps to mainstreaming a gender perspective", and noted a request to all United Nations entities to develop a system-wide gender

[5] Three other reports paid limited attention to gender perspectives or focused on gender balance: A/60/692, A/60/568 and A/60/825.

mainstreaming policy and strategy, with related accountability mechanisms. The report discussed the role of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality in intensifying the development of new methodologies, tools and competences. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates" (A/60/733 and Corr.1) stressed that gender issues deserve the same consideration of other cross-cutting priorities in the work of the Organization, and noted the need for a comprehensive review of institutional resources, mandates and reporting on gender equality and the advancement of women. The report also noted that the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence would be asked to include in its work an assessment of how gender equality, including through gender mainstreaming, can be better and more fully addressed in the work of the United Nations, particularly in its operational activities on the ground.

B. Second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, 16 to 18 November 2005

16. In its resolution 59/168, the General Assembly encouraged Governments and other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session in 2003. The Tunis Commitment[6] and the action-oriented Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[6] addressed gender perspectives in some sections and expanded on some of the previous commitments made in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted by the first phase of the World Summit in Geneva in 2003.[7]

17. The Tunis Commitment recognized that an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels could prevent increasing social and economic divisions — including between men and women. Member States also recognized that a gender digital divide exists, and reaffirmed their commitment to women's empowerment and to integrating a gender equality perspective to overcome this divide. The Tunis Agenda committed Member States to building information and communication technology (ICT) capacity for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all, including women.

18. Building on the Geneva Plan of Action, which encouraged Governments in collaboration with other stakeholders to formulate ICT policies fostering women's participation, the Tunis Commitment acknowledged that full participation of women is necessary to ensure inclusiveness and respect for human rights within the Information Society. All stakeholders were encouraged to support women's participation in decision-making processes.

19. The Geneva Plan of Action emphasized that gender barriers to ICT education and training should be removed and equal training opportunities in ICT-related fields promoted for women and girls. The Tunis Agenda made a further commitment to implementing effective training and education, particularly in ICT science and

[6] See A/60/687, annex.

[7] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

technology, which motivates and promotes participation and active involvement of girls and women in decision-making in the Information Society.

20. The Geneva Plan of Action recommended that gender-specific indicators on ICT be developed and measurable performance indicators be identified to assess the impact of ICT projects on women and girls. The Tunis Agenda noted the 2004 launch of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and its efforts to develop specific disaggregated indicators to measure the digital [gender] divide.

C. High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, New York, 31 May to 2 June 2006

21. In its resolution 50/2, on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended that the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS ensure the inclusion of gender perspectives and pay attention to the situation of women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.[8] The Commission also invited the Secretary-General to consider the gender dimensions of the epidemic when preparing his report, and in preparations for and organization of the meeting. The Commission stressed, among other issues, the importance of the provision of resources; international cooperation; coordination within the United Nations system; and information and awareness-raising.

22. The General Assembly integrated gender perspectives into the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (resolution 60/262, annex) in sections focusing on vulnerability, prevention of infection; services for pregnant women; prevention of violence; sexual and reproductive health; women's human rights; support for children and their caregivers; comprehensive health programmes; and medicine research and development.

23. In the Political Declaration, Member States pledged to increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health; and ensure that women can exercise their right to control matters related to their sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. (ibid., para. 30). Member States committed themselves to strengthening measures for the promotion and protection of women's full enjoyment of all human rights and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, sexual exploitation, and violence (ibid., para. 31). Member States pledged to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthen their economic independence. The importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality was reiterated (ibid., para. 30).

24. In addition, Member States committed to ensuring that pregnant women would have access to antenatal services, and to increasing effective treatment for women living with HIV in order to reduce mother-to-child transmission (para. 27). A commitment was also made to support women in their role as caregivers for children living with HIV/AIDS (ibid., para 32). Member States committed to integrating HIV/AIDS intervention into programmes for primary health care, mother and child health, and sexual and reproductive health (ibid., para. 34). Research and

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2006/27-E/CN.6/2006/15 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

development of HIV/AIDS-related medicines, products and technologies, including female-controlled methods, would be intensified (ibid., para. 45).

III. Main Committees of the General Assembly

25. The present section contains an overview of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixtieth session. It notes all resolutions that have paid attention to gender perspectives, but focuses in particular on resolutions containing specific, action-oriented recommendations on gender equality and/or the advancement of women and girls. The section does not cover resolutions that addressed gender balance or equal opportunities in the United Nations system.

26. The Third and Second Committees paid greater attention to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls, including through specific recommendations for action, than the other Committees. The First, Fourth, and Fifth Committees made some references to gender issues, including specific proposals for action. The Sixth Committee did not give attention to gender perspectives.

A. First Committee: disarmament and international security

27. General Assembly resolution 60/68 on addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation was the only resolution of the First Committee that integrated gender perspectives. The Assembly called upon States to take full account of the roles that women and women's organizations could play in small arms disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; and to ensure that the needs of women and girl combatants and dependants be addressed in such programmes. Other resolutions of the First Committee did not reflect attention to gender perspectives contained in reports of the Secretary-General, for example, in relation to the work of Regional Centres for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

B. Second Committee: economic and financial

Women in development

28. Under this biannual agenda item, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/210, urged Governments to develop and promote strategies to mainstream a gender perspective in economic and development policies and in monitoring and evaluating related programmes of action. The Assembly called for improved employment conditions and security for women in the service sector, and thus reflected many of the findings and recommendations of the corresponding report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women in development: The impact of globalization on women's employment and empowerment" (A/60/162 and Corr.1), including the need for collecting sex-disaggregated data. The resolution made several other specific action-oriented recommendations in the areas of sector-wide policy and programme planning, resource allocation, capacity-building, non-discriminatory legislation, as well as access to technology, credit, land, education and health.

Other issues, including follow-up to major conferences and summits

29. A number of resolutions provided specific recommendations for action on gender equality and the advancement of women in relation to follow-up to major conferences and summits, poverty eradication, the international financial system and development, sustainable development, global partnerships, and human resources development.

30. In its resolution 60/203 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including on gender equality.

31. General Assembly resolution 60/209 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) contained numerous references to gender issues in poverty eradication policies, fair globalization, education and microfinance. Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes for poverty eradication, at both the national and international levels. The use of gender analysis was also encouraged. In its resolution 60/186 on international financial system and development the Assembly called for continued policy advice, technical assistance and financial support of multilateral financial institutions to Member countries, to minimize negative impacts of adjustment programmes, taking into account gender-sensitive employment policies and strategies. In its resolution 60/215, entitled "Towards global partnerships", the Assembly recommended that partnerships should foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including gender-related discrimination, in employment.

32. In its resolution 60/198 on sustainable mountain development, the General Assembly underlined the need for improved access to resources and a strengthened role of mountain women in decision-making processes. This reflects a recommendation in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/60/309). In its resolution 60/211 on human resources development, the Assembly called for the integration of gender perspectives in human resources development, including through capacity-building and participation of women in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and action. It also called for the empowerment of women in human resources development.

33. In its resolution 60/195 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the General Assembly recognized the importance of integrating gender perspectives and engaging women in disaster management, but made no specific action proposals. In its resolution 60/204 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, the Assembly made no specific action-oriented recommendations but stressed the importance of a holistic approach through gender-sensitive development and reaffirmed the fundamental importance of gender equality for sustained economic growth and development.

C. Third Committee: social, humanitarian and cultural

34. A number of resolutions addressed gender perspectives in relation to human rights, social development, crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions, and rights of children.

Advancement of women and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

35. The General Assembly adopted seven substantive resolutions: resolution 60/136 on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women; resolution 60/137 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women; resolution 60/138 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas; resolution 60/139 on violence against women migrant workers; resolution 60/140 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; resolution 60/229 on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; and resolution 60/230 on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The resolutions reflected the majority of the recommendations made in corresponding reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the agenda item on advancement of women (A/60/38, A/60/137, A/60/165, A/60/170, A/60/206, A/60/211 and A/60/372).

The girl child

36. In its resolution 60/141, the General Assembly urged States to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by girls of all human rights, including in relation to marriage; equal access to basic services; legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence; special measures to support orphan girls; and protection of girls affected by armed conflicts, particularly from HIV/AIDS. Stakeholders were urged to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure that United Nations entities take into account the rights and particular needs of girls in country programmes. Human rights mechanisms were asked to integrate gender perspectives in implementing their mandates and to include in their reports analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls.

Human rights

37. The gender perspectives of human rights were addressed in a number of substantive resolutions on thematic issues, country situations, international human rights instruments and the work of human rights mechanisms. Some of these included specific action-oriented language.

38. General Assembly resolution 60/231 on the rights of the child contained action-oriented recommendations on gender perspectives, girls and women, including in relation to the elimination of violence; promotion and protection of children's rights, including girls living with HIV/AIDS; prevention and eradication

of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and children affected by armed conflict.

39. In its resolution 60/169 on protection of migrants, the General Assembly requested States to implement national or international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Assembly also urged integrating gender perspectives in international migration policies and programmes.

40. In its resolution 60/157 on the right to development, the General Assembly stressed the need for the integration of the rights of girls and boys in all policies and programmes. In its resolution 60/165 on the right to food, the Assembly encouraged States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination, in particular where it contributes to the malnutrition of women and girls.

41. In its resolution 60/142, on the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the General Assembly invited Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous and other non-governmental organizations and civil society actors to draw up their own plans for the Second Decade, including integrating a gender perspective in such activities. In its resolution 60/160 on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the Assembly urged States and the international community to apply gender perspectives when promoting and protecting the rights of minorities.

42. In its resolution 60/150 on combating defamation of religions, the General Assembly urged States to ensure equal access to education for all, including access to free primary education for girls and boys. In its resolution 60/166 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, the Assembly urged States to increase efforts to eliminate such intolerance and discrimination, including by attention to practices that violate the human rights of women and discriminate against women.

43. In its resolution 60/159, on human rights in the administration of justice, the General Assembly invited Governments to provide gender-sensitive training and increase attention to women in prison. In its resolution 60/148, on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Assembly invited States parties to incorporate gender perspectives when submitting reports to the Committee against Torture. In its resolution 60/149, on International Covenants on Human Rights, the Assembly called upon States parties to make use in their reports of sex-disaggregated data, and stressed the importance of integrating a gender perspective. In its resolution 60/155, on human rights and unilateral coercive measures, the Assembly urged States to refrain from adopting measures that impede economic and social development by the population, in particular children and women.

44. In its resolution 60/170, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the General Assembly called upon the Government to protect women and children from violence; promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and children, ensure their full participation in post-conflict reconstruction in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); ensure a

gender-sensitive programme to demobilize, disarm and reintegrate former combatants, and take into account the special needs of girls associated with them. The Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to continue his work for the elimination of sexual exploitation by United Nations personnel. In its resolution 60/233, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Assembly called upon the Government to end sexual violence by members of the armed forces, in particular against women from ethnic nationalities. In its resolution 60/171, on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Assembly called upon the Government to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls and to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

45. In other country-specific resolutions, resolution 60/172, on the situation of human rights in Turkmenistan, resolution 60/173, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and resolution 60/174, on the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan, the General Assembly noted that these countries were States parties to the Convention, or expressed concern at the violation of women's human rights. The Assembly did not make any gender-specific action-oriented recommendations.

46. The following resolutions paid some attention to gender perspectives but did not propose action on gender equality or the advancement of women: resolution 60/128, on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa; resolution 60/129, on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; resolution 60/154, on the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; resolution 60/161, on the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; resolution 60/167 on human rights and cultural diversity; and resolution 60/168 on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

Other issues, including follow-up to major conferences and summits

47. Other resolutions that incorporated gender perspectives focused on follow-up to major conferences and summits, other social issues, crime prevention and criminal justice and drug abuse.

48. In its resolution 60/130, on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly underlined the responsibility of the private sector regarding the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities. In its resolution 60/135, on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the Assembly recommended that the Commission on the Status of Women should continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those most vulnerable and living in rural areas. In its resolution 60/144, on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Assembly recognized the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action against racism.

49. In its resolution 60/132, on cooperatives in social development, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to promote the participation of women in cooperatives across all sectors, that reflects a recommendation in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/60/138), which also included gender perspectives throughout its analysis. In its resolution 60/133 on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, the Assembly urged Member States to create an environment conducive to strengthen and support families, recognizing that equality between women and men are essential to family well-being and to society at large. In its resolution 60/131, entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities", the Assembly paid attention to gender perspectives, but did not propose action-oriented recommendations.

50. In its resolution 60/175, on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly recognized existing efforts at the regional level that complement the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children. In the Bangkok Declaration, contained in the annex to resolution 60/177 on the follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, States members affirmed the need to ensure that services to children take into account their gender. In its resolution 60/178 on international cooperation against the world drug problem, the Assembly called upon Member States to consider providing additional reporting and analysis on women-specific data relating to the use of illicit substances and access to appropriate treatment services. States should consider strengthening and implementing prevention and treatment programmes that address barriers limiting access for young girls and women.

D. Fourth Committee: special political and decolonization

51. General Assembly resolution 60/97 on assistance in mine action, was the only resolution that integrated gender perspectives. The Assembly urged States to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, including to women; and encouraged all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include mine action activities in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance, bearing in mind the need for a gender perspective.

E. Fifth Committee: administrative and budgetary

52. General Assembly resolution 60/244, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Timor-Leste", was the only resolution that paid attention to gender perspectives. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate coordination of gender mainstreaming activities.

53. Other resolutions of the Fifth Committee stressed the importance of gender balance and the equal representation of women. The present report does not cover those issues.

F. Sixth Committee: legal

54. None of the resolutions paid special attention to gender perspectives or the advancement of women.

G. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

55. Resolutions adopted by the Plenary without reference to a Main Committee that made specific recommendations on gender equality addressed youth; humanitarian assistance, including in relation to country situations; development and peace; malaria in developing countries; oceans and the law of the sea; and cultural understanding.

56. In its resolution 60/2 on policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly decided to make the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men a priority area for the implementation of the World Programme of Action on Youth. In its resolution 60/11 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, the Assembly encouraged Governments to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so.

57. In its resolution 60/15 on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, the Assembly urged Governments and the United Nations system, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, and implementing recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to integrate a gender perspective and to ensure that women take an active and equal role in disaster management. In its resolution 60/124 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, the Assembly invited States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. The Assembly also called upon States to elaborate and implement strategies to report on, prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, girls and boys.

58. In its resolutions 60/32 A and B on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security and emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan, the General Assembly made numerous references to women. The Assembly called for implementation of the new Afghan Constitution, including the full enjoyment by women of their human rights; providing Afghan children with educational and health facilities, recognizing the special needs of girls; investigating allegations of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including against women and girls; and urged the Government to actively involve women in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes. It encouraged the collection and use of sex-

disaggregated statistical data to accurately track progress of the full integration of women into political, economic and social life.

59. In its resolution 60/221 entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa", the General Assembly requested international organizations to assist efforts of Government for universal protection of young children and pregnant women in areas of endemic malaria; and called upon the international community to support the development of new medicines, especially for children and pregnant women. In its resolution 60/223 on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, the Assembly urged further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines for protection of and assistance to women in conflict and post-conflict situations; called for the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding; and for expanding gender mainstreaming in the work of United Nations organizations involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. Both resolutions reflected recommendations in the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General (A/60/208 and A/60/182).

60. In its resolution 60/30 on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly urged States to become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to take appropriate measures for its effective implementation. In its resolution 60/225 on assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, to take measures for the implementation of the resolution.

61. The following resolutions paid some attention to gender perspectives but did not propose actions on gender equality or for the advancement of women: resolution 60/3 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010; resolution 60/4 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations; resolution 60/8 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal; resolution 60/9 on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace; resolution 60/123 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel; and resolution 60/222, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

IV. Attention to gender perspectives in selected documentation submitted to the Assembly in reports and notes of the Secretary-General

62. The present section contains a brief overview of gender mainstreaming in selected documentation for the sixtieth session of the Assembly. This assessment focuses on reports that have paid significant attention to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls, and/or made specific recommendations for action. The previous report of the Secretary-General (A/60/170, paras. 68 (a)-(e)) suggested

that reports submitted to the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies should be based on qualitative gender analysis and contain concrete recommendations for further action.

63. A considerable number of reports and notes of the Secretary-General prepared for major events or on follow-up to major conferences and summits, and documentation submitted to the Committees of the General Assembly, paid attention to gender perspectives and the situation of women and girls in their analysis. While several reports made efforts to present and analyse sex-disaggregated information and data, such gender analysis was, however, not always translated into conclusions or action-oriented recommendations. A number of reports and notes recommended that the Assembly propose gender-specific actions to Governments and other stakeholders.

64. Reports to the Third Committee paid more attention to gender perspectives than reports to other Committees. The specific recommendations for action in some of the reports and notes of the Secretary-General were included in resolutions, for example in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/60/358), the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/60/395), and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/60/221). In other cases, reports with clear action-oriented recommendations, for example, the report of the Secretary-General on the draft programme of action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270 and Add.1) did not lead to specific action-oriented recommendations in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

65. Reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to major conferences and summits made action-oriented recommendations in only a few cases, such as the reports on follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/60/207), and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80).[9]

66. Many reports of the Secretary-General to the Third Committee related to children, families, youth, minorities, food, religion or belief, human rights, administration of justice, and drug control included gender perspectives in their analysis (A/60/130, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/282, A/60/290, A/60/321, A/60/333, A/60/335, A/60/350 and A/60/399). They generally stressed that gender equality is essential for the achievement of progress in a particular field. While many reports assessed the impact of a particular issue on women and girls, or described specific actions benefiting women and girls, fewer discussed the active participation of women and girls in a given area.

67. Several reports to the Second Committee, notably on human resources development, poverty eradication, and sustainable development, made action-oriented recommendations. Some of the many action-oriented recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/60/318) were reflected in the resolution 60/211. A few recommendations of his report on the centrality of employment to poverty eradication (A/60/314) were reflected in general terms in the corresponding resolution 60/209. The recommendations

[9] Other reports on follow-up and implementation of major conferences and summits, including A/60/261, A/60/151, and A/60/307 did not include action-oriented recommendations.

contained in other reports, including his reports on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/60/168), and on building institutions for achieving the Development Goals and integrating in the Global Economy (A/60/322) were not taken up in resolutions adopted.

68. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: five years later" (A/60/736), prepared for the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, analysed sex-disaggregated statistics and made some action-oriented recommendations. These were reflected in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (see General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex), in particular in commitments to addressing factors that increase vulnerability, including gender inequality and all forms of discrimination; enhancing women's economic opportunities; and developing effective female-controlled prevention methods.

69. A number of reports to the Second Committee, for example on international financial systems and disaster reduction (A/60/163 and A/60/180), paid no attention to gender equality in their analysis or in their recommendations. The corresponding resolutions 60/186 and 60/195, however, did integrate gender perspectives in relation to gender-sensitive employment policies and the importance of gender perspectives in disaster management.

70. Some reports to the Fourth Committee and Sixth Committees made action-oriented recommendations. These included the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/60/380); his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/640/Add.1 and Corr.1), and his report on the *Repertory of practice of the United Nations organs* and *the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/60/124).

71. In reports to the Fifth Committee, references to gender equality were included in a number of reports relating to the expected accomplishments, indicators of accomplishments, and outputs of peacekeeping missions, for example in relation to technical advice, training, conferences, seminars and workshops on gender equality, human rights of women, and gender mainstreaming for and with various stakeholders including governments officials, troops, and women's organizations (A/60/190, A/60/273, A/60/335, A/60/585/Add.1, A/60/612, A/60/637, A/60/653, A/60/669, A/60/681, A/60/725/Add.1, A/60/726 and A/60/727). Many of these reports also refer to gender balance, which is not the subject of the present report.

72. The references to gender perspectives in several reports to the First Committee (A/60/132, A/60/152, A/60/153, on the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, respectively) were not reflected in resolutions adopted by the Committee.

73. Some reports, including the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/60/87), paid attention to gender perspectives in their analysis, which was reflected in specific recommendations in resolutions adopted by the Plenary without

reference to a Main Committee. A few reports included specific action-oriented recommendations, such as his reports on the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7) and on the midterm global review of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010 (A/60/279). Specific recommendations of these reports were, however, not reflected in the corresponding resolutions.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

74. **Gender perspectives were not fully incorporated into resolutions adopted by the Main Committees of the General Assembly and into the outcomes of major events over the past year. About a quarter of all resolutions paid attention to gender perspectives[10] Only about half of those made gender-specific action-oriented recommendations[11] As in previous years, resolutions submitted by the Third and Second Committees, as well as those adopted without reference to a Main Committee, paid greater attention to gender perspectives than resolutions submitted by the other Committees of the Assembly. Further efforts could be made to ensure gender-sensitive consideration by the Assembly of disarmament and international security issues, special political issues, administrative and budgetary matters and legal affairs.**

75. **Documentation prepared for major events, and reports submitted to the Third and Second Committees of the Assembly, paid more attention to gender perspectives and the situation of women and girls than reports to the other Committees. Specific recommendations for action on gender equality and the advancement of women were, however, not always included in the documentation.**

76. **A selective review of documentation shows some correlation between attention to gender perspectives in reports of the Secretary-General and the integration of gender perspectives in resolutions adopted by the Assembly. Substantial attention to gender perspectives or gender-specific recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General tended to be reflected in resolutions, albeit not always completely and consistently. Increased attention to gender perspectives in resolutions adopted by the Assembly can be facilitated by systematic and concrete incorporation of gender analysis and recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General.**

77. **The General Assembly may wish to:**

(a) **Ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences and summits by its subsidiary bodies, in particular the 2005 World Summit, as well as in the context of the reform of the United Nations;**

[10] As of 7 July 2006.

[11] Excluding resolutions adopted under the agenda items Advancement of women, Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Women in development, and resolutions dealing with gender balance in human resources.

(b) **Ensure gender mainstreaming in the follow-up to the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010;**

(c) **Ensure gender mainstreaming in the preparation of and follow-up to the Assembly's special session on children;**

(d) **Encourage its Committees and all subsidiary bodies to intensify their efforts to pay attention to gender perspectives, in particular by systematically including in their resolutions and decisions action-oriented recommendations for the achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women; and, where applicable, by including in their resolutions requests to the Secretary-General for gender-sensitive reporting;**

(e) **Ensure that its recently established subsidiary bodies, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council include attention to gender perspectives in the development of their methods of work and their consideration of all issues on their respective agendas;**

(f) **Encourage its Committees and all subsidiary bodies to enhance monitoring of progress on gender mainstreaming in their work through their own regular and systematic reviews;**

(g) **Request that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies facilitate gender-sensitive policy development by systematically addressing gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and, in particular, through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the advancement of women.**

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Culture of peace

Culture of peace

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the culture of peace in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/3, 60/10 and 60/11.

Summary

The present report, prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/3, entitled "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010", 60/10, entitled "Promotion of interreligious dialogue and cooperation for peace", and 60/11, entitled "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation". It follows the midterm global review of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, prepared by UNESCO (see A/60/279).

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I. Introduction

1. In September 2005, world leaders reaffirmed in the World Summit Outcome document the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of action adopted by the General Assembly. They underlined the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation. The leaders committed themselves to taking action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels and requested the Secretary-General to explore implementation mechanisms and to follow up on those activities. In that regard, they also welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations initiative announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005. Furthermore, the leaders underlined that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding.

II. Implementation of the Programme of action on a Culture of Peace

2. As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been tasked with coordinating and directly implementing activities in connection with the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, the present report presents an overview of activities carried out by the organization, with the participation of other United Nations entities, Governments and civil society actors. It also contains an overview of activities reported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance of Civilizations relevant to General Assembly resolutions 60/3, 60/10 and 60/11. Those activities are presented in eight sections, corresponding to the eight areas of the Programme of action on a Culture of Peace.

A. Actions to foster a culture of peace through education

Culture of peace education activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

3. *Education for All — promoting international political commitment.* Within the Education for All (EFA) framework, UNESCO has been providing policy and decision makers with information about progress achieved against the six Dakar goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals for education, through the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* (2001, 2002, 2003/4, 2005, 2006), which also highlights effective policies and strategies, alerts the global community to emerging challenges and promotes international action and cooperation. UNESCO has been working to sustain international political commitment for EFA through the organization of the Working Groups on EFA, the EFA High-level Group (Brasilia, 2004; Beijing, 2005), the Ministerial Round Table on EFA (2005) and meetings of the nine high-population countries (E-9).

4. *Quality education*. Quality education is a major goal of EFA, and peace education is an integral part of it. It is a vehicle for dialogue, as it has the capability to raise awareness and promote the understanding of fundamental human rights, respect for the "other" and skills for creating and maintaining a culture of peace. UNESCO has been supporting Member States to integrate a holistic vision of quality education in their educational systems at all levels. This includes the development of textbooks and learning materials that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, both in formal and informal learning schemes of basic education; the setting up of databases on best practices, as well as the exchange of experiences; the development of science and technology education policies in higher education with the overall aim of contributing to poverty reduction; and the promotion of inter-university solidarity for development.

5. *Accelerating action to reach the EFA goals and the Millennium Development Goals*. To accelerate action towards assisting member States reach the six EFA goals and the Millennium Development Goals, UNESCO has created three core EFA initiatives: the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment seeks to achieve 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015 by anchoring literacy work in national development policies, life skills programmes and poverty reduction strategies at the national level; the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa to address the teacher shortage crisis in that region; and the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education (EDUCAIDS), in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, co-sponsoring organizations, donors, civil society and the private sector in order to scale up education action addressing HIV/AIDS through improved coordination, increased capacity and revitalized commitment at all levels.

6. *Inter-agency Peace Education Programme*. UNESCO, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) developed the Inter-agency Peace Education Programme, which consists of a set of 16 documents. The programme provides the life skills related to peace education and conflict minimization and prevention for refugee and returnee children, youth and the wider community. Peace education materials, including a formal and a non-formal education component and teacher training manuals, have been translated into local languages and sent to UNESCO field offices and to national commissions, as well as to UNHCR for distribution in refugee camps and to the INEE network.

Culture of peace education activities of the United Nations Children's Fund

7. *Peace education*. UNICEF programmes reflect the fact that education must seek to promote peace and tolerance and avoid fuelling hatred and suspicion. Specific activities took place in a number of countries in conflict or emerging from conflict, as well as in countries experiencing a large influx of refugees. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for instance, 6,000 teachers were trained in peace education. In addition, 2,645 children formerly associated with armed groups were reintegrated into 183 primary schools, 83 secondary schools and 30 non-formal education centres. With the Palestinian Authority, as part of a child-friendly school initiative, Sport for Development activities were initiated for 19,200 students in grades 5 to 7 in 65 schools. The following are some UNICEF-supported interventions that directly and indirectly are relevant for the promotion of a culture of peace:

- In Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF developed a peace and tolerance curriculum with the Ministry of Education and supported training-of-trainers, benefiting more than 750,000 children
- Pilot projects were conducted in Kosovo (Serbia), southern Sudan, Somalia and Tajikistan to counter the use of small arms and light weapons among children and to build a culture of peace
- In Darfur, a peace dance in Wau Town takes place weekly allowing some 2,000 people from different communities to express their support for peace
- In Sierra Leone, adolescents have participated in the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and contributed to the Commission's recommendations, resulting in the child-friendly version of the Truth and Reconciliation Report
- The UNICEF Regional Office in West and Central Africa carried out a subregional workshop on transforming violent conflict and building peace and launched a two-year peacebuilding project to promote sustainable peace and stability in the West African subregion, by reinforcing the leadership capacity of youth and children's groups
- Schools are being promoted as "zones of peace" in which children can learn and develop, safe from violence and free from the presence of small arms and light weapons
- The resumption of specific education interventions are promoted in the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children, including a provision for conflict resolution within emergency education responses, following the initial six to eight-week period.

Culture of peace education activities of the United Nations University

8. *Peace and Governance Programme*. Through its Peace and Governance Programme, UNU, in collaboration with the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), initiated a book project to examine how leading religious teachings regard the justification of the use of force, with respect both to engagement in warfare and to just means of war. Researchers of various traditions — Christianity (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant), Islam (Sunni and Shia), Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Shintoism — wrote chapters and met to exchange views and undertake an interreligious analysis, as a result of which a book will be published. The project presents the role of religious institutions and networks in fostering peaceful resolution of conflicts. The aim is to stimulate and enrich the interreligious dialogue and the dissemination of the end-results will feed into specific policymaking establishments. The project will inform policymakers and a broader audience about the genuine religious approaches to peace and war, and their misinterpretation and stigmatization for power-driven purposes. By doing so, it will advocate the strengthening of a culture of peace. UNU also joined the Hague Academic Coalition in publishing a book entitled *International Criminal Accountability and Children's Rights*, which examines whether the mechanisms of post-conflict justice meet the needs and rights of child victims and illustrates the development of child rights protection in international courts. It also gives examples of aggravated sentencing for crimes against children and advocates that a child-oriented approach needs to be further inserted into international accountability.

Culture of peace education activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

9. *Peace and Disarmament Education Programme.* UN-LiREC and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) designed a project on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation education, which includes the development of a course for policymakers and youngsters, the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world and the preparation of audio-visual material on nuclear-weapon-free zones. It also entails close collaboration in the organization of a seminar to observe the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) in February 2007. Furthermore, UN-LiREC and its partners developed the "Weapons of Peace" publication, containing artwork by Argentine artists made from the remains of destroyed firearms and ammunition, which portrays how instruments and symbols of violence can be transformed into objects that transmit a message of harmony and sustenance of life.

10. *Supporting Peru's new Amnesty Law campaign.* In an effort to support Peru's new Amnesty Law No. 28684-06 campaign (23 July 2005-17 September 2006), UN-LiREC and its partners provided technical and financial support to the Peruvian Ministry of the Interior, which is working to regularize the status of firearms, ammunition and explosives possession throughout the country. Assistance included the production of visual and printed material, including television spot, video, documentary and radio announcements, as well as 10,000 posters. In addition, any illegal and/or decommissioned weapons collected through the campaign will be considered for destruction with the assistance of the United Nations and its partners. The Centre and its partners also supported an initiative in 2005 aimed at complementing Peru's celebration of its national day (28 July). The Centre worked with 5 municipalities and 61 schools, involving 2,500 children to design activities that raise awareness about the folklore and culturally inspired values of the country. The initiative is now projected to cover eight municipalities in the metropolitan Lima area and nine provinces.

Culture of peace education activities of the International Labour Organization

11. *Prevention and reintegration of children involved in armed conflict.* The ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC) seeks to combat the use of children in armed conflict, as it is one of the worst forms of child labour. In 2003, an ILO/IPEC interregional programme on the "Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict" was launched, which covers Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The main objectives of the ILO/IPEC Interregional Child Soldier Project are: (a) create an enabling environment in each country, facilitating the prevention, withdrawal and subsequent reintegration into society of children involved in armed conflict; (b) support the reintegration of former child soldiers; and (c) prevent the recruitment of children into armed units. Last year, around 8,000 former child soldiers and/or vulnerable children at risk of being recruited were either reintegrated into society or were prevented from being recruited as child soldiers through the project. Young children are provided with literacy and numeracy classes and catch-up education, when needed, with the objective of mainstreaming them into the formal education system and older children receive

pre-vocational and vocational training to encourage and facilitate their economic reintegration into society.

12. *Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM).* ILO encourages the engagement of young people in building a culture of peace, social dialogue and a sense of active citizenship. In the framework of ILO/IPEC, a specific programme, Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM) was created to help teachers, educators and young people promote understanding of social justice issues as a basis for peace. The programme places emphasis on the use of visual, literary and performing arts and focuses on the social dimensions of globalization, human rights and child labour. Thousands of children worldwide — from primary to high school — are expressing their creativity through music and theatre performances, visual arts and canvases, photo exhibits, seminars, debates, interviews and academic projects that deepen their awareness while contributing to social change. The programme enhances cooperation and encourages dialogue between a wide range of partners, including the academic world, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, the artistic community and the media.

Culture of peace education activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

13. *Partnership on Education for Rural People (ERP).* FAO is leading the partnership on Education for Rural People (ERP), which is part of the International Alliance Against Hunger and of the Education for All (EFA) initiative. Both FAO and UNESCO are inviting member countries, international agencies and civil society to join this partnership, whose main objective is to foster national capacities to plan and implement ERP as part of National Education for All and Rural Development Plans. Education is an essential prerequisite for reducing poverty, improving agriculture and the living conditions of rural people and building a food-secure world. ERP focuses on the need to ensure and enable an environment conducive to poverty eradication, peace and food security. Its policy focuses on engaging Governments, in collaboration with civil society, to support investments in human resources, such as education, literacy and other skills training, which are essential to sustainable development.

B. Actions to promote sustainable economic and social development

Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote sustainable and economic development

14. *Building human and institutional capacities.* Intellectual cooperation and dialogue among cultures and civilizations was fostered through specific approaches, such as in the area of water resources assessment and management through applied research, targeted at problems identified at regional levels. This included training courses on conflict and cooperation in transboundary river management in different regions and the preparation and sharing of best practices. Furthermore, activities were undertaken to promote exchanges between different traditional and local knowledge systems and knowledge holders, to engage young scientists and to focus on introducing dialogue components in science and engineering education, such as through the Mondialogo Engineering Award. The same kind of transboundary

cooperation was also promoted by the Man and Biosphere Programme for the management of shared ecosystems, through the biosphere reserve concept. Five transboundary biosphere reserves have been established in Europe and, more recently, two in Africa. Moreover, the powerful force of the basic sciences provided a platform for peaceful dialogue and collaboration, as exemplified by the SESAME (Synchrotron Radiation for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) Project, a true "science for peace" project in the Middle East.

15. *United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).* Education for Sustainable Development pursues the global vision of a world where everyone has the opportunity to learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and positive social change. UNESCO, as the United Nations system lead agency for the Decade, is coordinating the efforts of Governments, educators and students to integrate the theme of sustainable development in educational systems at all levels. In 2006, the organization organized the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on the Decade to approve its terms of reference and identify joint areas of cooperation.

16. *Fresh water.* UNESCO continued to build its action on three pillars in the field of fresh water. The first is the International Hydrological Programme, which focuses on managing water interactions, including the impact of global change on the water cycle. National committees advised Governments on policy and management issues related to the programme, and cooperation was promoted among a network of 12 centres at the regional or international levels on different thematic aspects of fresh water of relevance to the programme. The second pillar is water education, carried out principally through the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. Being among the largest graduate schools for water education in the world, UNESCO-IHE worked to fortify education and capacity-building for developing countries. The third pillar is the World Water Assessment Programme, a United Nations system programme involving 24 United Nations organizations and programmes for which UNESCO provides the secretariat lead, and which produces the World Water Development Report. In 2006, the secretariat published the second report.

17. *Oceans.* The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is the ocean sciences and services focal point in the United Nations system, contributing to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. IOC continued to support the sustainable development and assessment of oceans and coasts by improving the scientific understanding of the marine environment, setting international standards for the collection and open exchange of ocean data, and building the capacities of developing countries to use new knowledge and apply new tools. IOC continued to lead the implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System to assist the scientific community in addressing scientific uncertainties, particularly as regards climate change, and continued to coordinate the establishment of a tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean.

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Activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote sustainable and economic development

18. *Providing assistance to the United Nations Women's Guild — Peru.* UN-LiREC responded to a request to supply technical and financial assistance to the United Nations Women's Guild — Peru (UNWG) for the organization of the Guild's fourth annual fund-raising bazaar in November 2005. That assistance illustrates the first step in the Centre's strategic plan to identify peace, disarmament and development-related initiatives to be undertaken by both entities during the 2006-2007 period, which will build on previous work carried out by the Guild in Peru.

Activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote sustainable and economic development

19. *United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).* UNICEF has been actively promoting the Decade, of which UNESCO is the United Nations system lead agency. UNICEF attended the Inter-agency Committee on the Decade and also participated in a meeting of experts on indicators. The organization continued to promote the Decade by working through its national committees in industrialized countries to promote Education for Development and to foster greater understanding of the needs of developing countries, both in terms of financial and capacity gaps.

C. Actions to promote respect for all human rights

Actions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote respect for all human rights

20. *Human rights education.* The specific objectives and framework for activities on human rights education are clearly laid out in the Plan of action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. UNESCO has been assisting member States in integrating various elements into all aspects of curriculums, learning materials and teaching methodologies within the social and cultural context of local and national educational systems. The organization has also been working with member States to weave those elements into the planning and implementation of non-formal education and all types of learning media, including information and communication technologies. The ultimate goal is to help communities access the knowledge, skills and channels of communication necessary to have a meaningful voice in an enlightened dialogue and to prevent the spread of violence based on misunderstanding and intolerance.

21. *Human security, peace and conflict prevention.* To strengthen human security, the organization launched 26 intersectoral projects on the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, which have a direct impact on vulnerable populations in the countries where the projects are running and are examples of strengthened cooperation between UNESCO and other United Nations agencies, in particular UNICEF and UNDP, as well as a number of non-governmental organizations. The organization has also been working with the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the elaboration and validation of ethical, normative and educational frameworks for the promotion of human security and the prevention of conflict through various research, training and

expert forums in Africa, the Arab States and South-East Asia. The organization has also been following up, through networking and pilot projects, on the frameworks that have been defined for Central Asia, East Asia and Latin America.

Actions of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote respect for all human rights

22. *Human rights-based approaches to programming.* UNICEF is committed to human rights-based approaches to programming and is working with UNESCO to develop a framework for the realization of children's rights in education. A workshop was organized with the support of the UNICEF Regional Office in Panama in November 2005. UNESCO actively participated and outlined the parameters of the framework. In May 2006, a first version of the resulting document was discussed at a global consultation, organized jointly by UNICEF and UNESCO at the Fund's Innocenti Research Centre, in Florence, Italy. The final version will be available in September 2006. The document brings together the current thinking and practice on a rights-based approach in the education sector and is intended as a conceptual and programming tool. It is going to be disseminated to countries and development partners for guidance on policy, planning and programme implementation in the field of basic education. This falls within the two agencies' objectives of achieving Education for All and attaining the education-related Millennium Development Goals on universal primary education and gender equality.

23. *Child-friendly school (CFS) initiatives.* Child-friendly school (CFS) initiatives, spearheaded by UNICEF, mainstream human rights into education in a number of Asian, Latin American and African countries, emphasizing that education is an entitlement (as opposed to a need). CFS initiatives demonstrate the urgency for a paradigm shift to a more inclusive approach, one that looks at education from the perspective of responsibility rather than mere utility.

24. *Global Study on Violence against Children.* The Global Study on Violence against Children is rooted in a child's right to protection from all forms of violence and aims to promote action to prevent and eliminate violence against children at international, regional, national and local levels. This United Nations-led collaboration draws together existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes and impact of violence, which affects children and young people (up to the age of 18 years). The Study report will be published and recommendations presented to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2006. The report will contain findings and recommendations within five "settings" in which violence against children takes place — home and family, education, institutions, work and community.

Actions of the World Health Organization to promote respect for all human rights

25. *Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.* In the last 10 years, WHO has devoted substantial attention to addressing violence as a major public-health problem, particularly through the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, which provides a platform for violence prevention activities in order to raise awareness about the problem of violence, highlight the crucial role that public health can play in addressing its causes and consequences and encourage action at every level of

society. In October 2005, WHO and The California Wellness Foundation hosted the Second Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention meeting in San Francisco, United States of America, where more than 150 violence prevention experts from around the world met to discuss progress achieved in implementing the *World Report on Violence and Health*, launched by WHO in October 2002.

D. Actions to ensure equality between women and men

Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote equality between women and men

26. *Gender mainstreaming*. Gender equality is being promoted through gender mainstreaming throughout all programmes and all stages of UNESCO activities. The organization requires gender mainstreaming training for all professional staff to enhance staff knowledge of and programmatic response to gender equality issues in UNESCO domains by (a) targeting professional staff at all levels, including senior management; (b) aiming at building the capacity of staff to undertake gender analysis; and (c) urging staff to apply gender analysis to both policy formulation and programmatic work. The training was launched in September 2005. Training workshops have been conducted for two programming sectors at UNESCO: education and culture. In December 2005, the first regional training took place in Dakar, with the participation of directors, education specialists and gender focal points from all sub-Saharan Africa field offices.

27. *Women's rights*. Gender equality and equal rights for women are being promoted through policy-oriented research, networking, advocacy and institution-building. UNESCO organized the conference on Empowering Women in the Great Lakes Region: Violence, Peace, and Women's Leadership, in Addis Ababa, from 30 May to 1 June 2005, which brought together policymakers, non-governmental organizations activists and academics from the Great Lakes region to discuss research, policy and activism towards women's empowerment. In addition, a programme of action is being implemented to empower women in the Great Lakes region, which includes the establishment of a Women's Research and Documentation Centre in Kinshasa and of women's studies programmes in universities in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

28. *Promoting women in scientific research*. UNESCO has been promoting women's participation in scientific research through the L'Oréal-UNESCO Partnership For Women in Science. Since 1998, 42 L'Oréal-UNESCO Award laureates have been recognized for their careers and encouraged to pursue their scientific vocations. In addition, the programme of national fellowships has permitted 130 young women to pursue their scientific research.

29. *Gender and information and communication technology*. To provide women with equal access to information and communication technology and bridge the gender divide, UNESCO has been working to raise awareness on gender-related barriers to access to information and communication technology; to include women as leaders and decision makers; to facilitate better understanding of the needs and directions within the framework of gender and information and communication technology; to render assistance and support local solutions and content; and to take forward the commitments that were made at previous United Nations conferences

and summits, in particular the World Conferences on Women, held in Nairobi and Beijing.

Actions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to ensure equality between women and men

30. *Partnership on Education for Rural People (ERP).* Through this partnership, FAO is working with Governments to develop or improve upon their education policies in order to ensure equal access to education for women, especially girls, since illiteracy is particularly high among rural girls and women. Education is vital in improving the status of women, significantly improving health and nutrition in rural areas, lowering child morbidity and mortality rates, and slowing population growth.

Actions of the World Health Organization to ensure equality between women and men

31. *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence.* Violence against women is increasingly recognized as a major global public health problem. Recognizing the limited data about the magnitude and nature of the problem, as well as its underlying causes, the WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health launched the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence in November 2005 so that effective preventive strategies can be developed. The study, for which over 24,000 women were interviewed in 10 different countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Peru, Namibia, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania) found that physical and sexual violence is extremely common in women's lives and that intimate partner violence remains a hidden problem.

32. *Prevention against violence and gender discrimination.* Inspired by the WHO Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, the Brazilian city of Manaus recently launched its own campaign for violence prevention, which has resulted in a new violence prevention law that was passed in November 2005. That law designates that one week each year will be known as the Prevention against Violence and Gender Discrimination Week. The new campaign will publicize best practices and concepts for equal rights and establish a permanent forum on violence and discrimination prevention. The law also allows for the creation and provision of a new series of courses on violence and gender discrimination for all teachers, professors and city government staff.

Activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote equality between women and men

33. *United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI).* UNICEF is the lead agency for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), which supports country-led development and seeks to influence decision-making and investments to ensure gender equity and equality in national education policies, plans and programmes. The UNGEI mission is central to building gender equality, social justice and economic development, all of which are essential to constructing and maintaining peace in societies. UNGEI is active in the Sudan, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Guinea, Rwanda, Thailand and Uganda, where active United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations peacebuilding efforts are under way.

E. Actions to foster democratic participation

Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to foster democratic participation

34. *Assisting in the development of independent media.* UNESCO has been promoting democratic governance and citizenship participation in developing countries, in particular those in post-conflict situations, by: training journalists and media professionals, especially women journalists, in non-partisan and independent reporting techniques in conflict areas; supporting the establishment of the necessary conditions for independent media by providing expertise to national authorities that seek to adapt their media legislation to internationally recognized standards of freedom of expression, peace and tolerance; supporting the production and co-production of media programmes that promote peace, tolerance and mutual understanding in post-conflict areas; ensuring the security and safety of media professionals through training seminars and by regularly updating the practical guide for journalists working in conflict zones; and assisting media in covering elections as free and fair elections are essential for the consolidation of democracy and the prevention of conflict.

Activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to foster democratic participation

35. *Voices of Youth.* UNICEF is working to enable the participation of children whose voices are rarely heard, the most marginalized and vulnerable, such as poor, disabled children and girls. To strengthen the capacity of children and young people to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, UNICEF has continued to promote issues related to adolescent development and participation through its "Voices of Youth" (http://www.unicef.org/) Internet rights project. The online facility provides an opportunity for children and young people to learn about global issues, in particular in the light of how such issues may affect them worldwide, and share their views with others about how to take action in their own communities.

F. Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity

Actions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity

36. *Promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among cultures, civilizations and peoples.* Genuine dialogue is a specific behaviour, practice and dynamic process and one of the best tools against the threat of a clash of ignorances, meaning the ignorance of each other's way of life, values, language, history and heritage, the ignorance of the equal dignity of the human person in all civilizations and cultures, and the ignorance of the unity of humanity and of commonly shared values as a precondition for the maintenance of peace. In 2005, UNESCO consolidated its concrete and practical action in the area of the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, including interfaith dialogue, through a specific focus on initiatives at the regional and subregional levels, the articulation of a set of commonly shared values and principles, thematic focus-building in its five domains, multi-stakeholder involvement, and dialogue as a vehicle for advancing women's human rights.

37. Several conferences and summits were held that focused on concrete and practical action in promoting the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples. In May 2005, at the Summit of Heads of State of South-East Europe, held in Varna, Bulgaria, the Heads of State adopted the Varna Declaration, pledging to contribute to the promotion of cultural heritage and cultural corridors within the region, and to promote urgent measures for the protection of cultural heritage at risk within the region, including continuing action to counter the illicit traffic in cultural property. In June 2006, another summit of leaders from South-East Europe was held in Opatija, Croatia, which enabled experts to identify elements of cultural corridors and to explore the potential for enhanced cooperation within South-East Europe in order to promote a common European heritage. In June 2006, a regional African conference was held in Abuja that focused on the potential of education and science for the promotion of dialogue and concluded with the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples: The Pivotal Role of Education and Science.

38. Intercultural dialogue among young people was supported through the organization of a Youth Forum on "Young people and the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples" held at UNESCO headquarters, from 30 September to 2 October 2005, in conjunction with the organization's General Conference. Young people from all regions participated in the event and their report was submitted and adopted at the thirty-third General Conference. UNESCO, in partnership with DaimlerChrysler, also encouraged intercultural dialogue among young people through the Mondialogo initiative, composed of a school contest, an engineering award and the intercultural Mondialogo Internet Portal.

39. Interreligious dialogue contributes to the broader dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples because it promotes dialogue between individuals and leaders of different religions, faiths and convictions with a view to increasing mutual knowledge about spiritual traditions and their underlying values. In line with the UNESCO "Roads of Dialogue" programme, the organization brought together religious figures from the monotheistic faiths in thematic meetings to analyse the complex issue of interfaith dialogue as a component of intercultural dialogue. A recent example is the conference on "Religion in Peace and Conflict: Responding to Militancy and Fundamentalism", held in Sydney, Australia, in April 2005, where experts from South-East Asia and the Pacific rim examined the roots of terrorism and the means to mediate tensions among communities.

40. UNESCO considers intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity to be inseparable and mutually dependent. The myriad cultural expressions, which reflect the wealth of imagination, knowledge and value systems, form the seedbed for a renewed dialogue leading to each person's integration and participation in society as a whole. The organization has been promoting cultural diversity by assisting member States in bolstering national cultural heritage legislation, policy and practices, by working to protect, rehabilitate and safeguard heritage through advocacy, capacity-building and standard setting and through the development of sustainable cultural industries.

Actions of the International Labour Organization to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity

41. *ILO Youth Sport Programme*. Using sport for development and peacebuilding helps bridge cultures and eradicate stigmas between different people around the world. The ILO Youth Sport Programme links the development of youth skills, by addressing needs in the world of sport, with ILO training. Activities were conducted in El Salvador, Mozambique and Senegal for skills development, cooperatives and local socio-economic development.

42. *The ILO/Universitas Programme*. The ILO/Universitas Programme, a partnership programme between universities, public and private stakeholders and tripartite social partners, is collaborating with Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, United States of America, to establish a Student Leadership Training for Peace Programme in order to involve young people in peacebuilding efforts. The University of Turin, Italy, has also taken the initiative to develop a certificate on peacebuilding and youth skills development through sport to allow for the study of the challenges and opportunities surrounding sport.

Actions of the United Nations Children's Fund to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity

43. *Unite for children. Unite against AIDS*. Successful work to prevent HIV/AIDS and mitigate its impact on organizations and systems requires a readiness to tackle gender and other forms of social inequality. Actions to protect people (including teachers and pupils) living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS from stigma and discrimination are therefore crucial to any effort to combat the pandemic. UNICEF and partners, including UNAIDS co-sponsors, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and civil society partners launched a global campaign in 2005 entitled "Unite for children. Unite against AIDS." The campaign focused on scaling up interventions to prevent new infections, help children affected by HIV/AIDS and ensure that children have a central place on the global HIV/AIDS agenda. Central to the campaign is preventing stigma and discrimination and instead promoting understanding and solidarity with children and adults infected or affected by the pandemic, in particular through interventions with children and adolescents in and out of school, and ensuring that life skills and caring, respect and understanding are transmitted alongside primary prevention interventions.

G. Action to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

44. *Promoting freedom of expression*. UNESCO promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press as a basic human right through sensitization and monitoring activities and fosters media independence and pluralism by providing advisory services on media legislation and sensitizing Governments, parliamentarians and other decision makers. In March 2005, the Executive Board of UNESCO adopted 174 EX/Decision 46 on respect for freedom of expression and respect for sacred beliefs and values, and religious and cultural symbols. It requests

the Director-General of UNESCO to strengthen the organization's programmes and actions, in its fields of competence, to fulfil its commitment towards mutual understanding and respect for all peoples' religious and cultural values, and freedom of expression, and to accelerate the implementation of the plan of action for the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples with a view to creating a culture of peace and living together.

45. *Promoting universal access to information and knowledge.* The organization is working to reduce the digital divide and build inclusive knowledge societies. Through the Information for All Programme, the organization assisted member States in developing legal and policy frameworks to promote universal access to information. Action was also targeted to implement the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003, and Tunis, 2005). At the local level, UNESCO has been providing a gateway to participation in the global knowledge society, especially for women and youth, seeking to ensure that information, communication and knowledge become tools for the poor for improving their lives through its Community Multimedia Centre programme. Such centres combine community radio, run by the local people using local languages, with community telecentre facilities, such as computers linked to Internet and e-mail, phone, fax, and photocopying services. UNESCO has supported over 50 centres, including in Angola, the Great Lakes region in Africa, the Middle East, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, which has contributed to peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

46. UNICEF partnered with the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) to emphasize the role of sport in addressing racism and violence in the 2006 FIFA World Cup. A simple game of football, celebrated in the World Cup, can bring people together who actively work against racism and discrimination. On the "Unite for Children, Unite for Peace" website, http://www.unicef.org/football, more information is provided about how individual children are overcoming difficult circumstances through the power of sport.

H. Actions to promote international peace and security

Actions of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote international peace and security

47. *Mine risk education.* UNICEF undertakes some form of mine-related actions in more than 30 countries around the world, including numerous mine risk education activities. Mine risk education plays an important role in supporting the access of communities to mine clearance and development resources and helps to build the confidence of local populations. In peacebuilding, mine risk education plays a role in supporting information exchanges between warring parties, advocating for compliance with different norms, facilitating access to communities and raising awareness. During the reporting period, mine risk education activities were undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and Colombia. In December 2006, UNICEF and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining published a series of 12 guide

books on best practice in undertaking mine risk education programmes. Those guide books supplement in the International Mine Action Standards Mine Risk Education part of the International Mine Action Standards and were developed and managed by UNICEF. The guide books are intended to support the implementation of the standards and ensure a more predictable, effective and coordinated response to the mine problem.

48. *Landmine survivor assistance*. UNICEF supports landmine survivor assistance in three countries (Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation (Chechnya) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic). Support ranges from summer camps for children, training workshops on planning and prioritization of mine awareness, survivor assistance and advocacy, data analysis and victim assistance studies.

49. *Small arms proliferation and misuse*. UNICEF has played a key role in advocacy concerning children affected by armed conflict and the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of children in armed forces and other combatant groups in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, the Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda. UNICEF also participated in the development of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration module of the Inter-agency Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards for children.

50. *Demobilization and rehabilitation/reintegration of child soldiers*. One critical area of contribution towards international peace and security is the demobilization and rehabilitation/reintegration of child soldiers. UNICEF is involved in such activities through its Child Protection Section in various countries. For instance, the Special Project for the Demobilization, Social Reintegration and Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers in Burundi was designed to assist the government in the provision of assistance to demobilize child soldiers, increase awareness about the international prevention of recruitment of children and support the social and economic reintegration of all demobilized child soldiers. The project successfully facilitated the demobilization and social reintegration of some 3,000 former child combatants in the autumn of 2005. The success of the project at a social level and its early rapid response to the demobilization challenge may have been instrumental in helping to push the peace process forward.

Actions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote international peace and security

51. *Promoting international peace and security*. To promote international peace and security by furthering efforts to engage multi-stakeholders in the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, UNESCO consulted with a range of current and potential partners and organizations with a view to building a broad-based and inclusive approach and to identify possibilities for joint action and partnerships. In that context, in 2005, UNESCO and the Council of Europe signed a declaration of intent on the setting up of a platform of inter-institutional cooperation for intercultural dialogue, focusing on programmes and activities in the areas of education, youth and sport, culture (heritage and creativity), communication and information.

52. New focal points within the organization and in other United Nations bodies were also identified with a view to promoting closer cooperation at the midterm

point of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. For example, the UNESCO Culture of Peace Coordination Unit participated in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Workshop on Transitional Justice, National Reconciliation and Building a Culture of Peace, held in Zagreb in April 2006, to develop training guidance on transitional justice, national reconciliation and building a culture of peace in a United Nations peacekeeping context.

53. *Global struggle against terrorism*. The long-term strategy of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the global struggle against terrorism, from the education perspective, has been to scale up existing programmes for strengthening the capacities of educational systems so as to integrate human rights education, internationally shared values, the elimination of stereotypes, mutual understanding, conflict prevention and critical thinking into every aspect of those systems, including the development of curriculum standards, the training of teachers and the approval of school textbooks. UNESCO has also been actively participating in the United Nations Secretary-General's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome document with a view to strengthening the United Nations system's capacity and coordination to assist States in combating terrorism.

Global Alliance of Civilizations

54. In September 2005, the Secretary-General of the United Nations created a High-level Group in order to articulate and prepare measures for an Alliance of Civilizations. The High-level Group aims at fostering better intercultural understanding through concrete actions to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions and misperceptions, in particular between Islamic and Western societies. Its report is to be submitted to the Secretary-General before the end of 2006. UNESCO has contributed to the deliberations of the Group by providing it with detailed information on the organization's orientations and current activities to promote the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples. In May 2006, the Director-General of UNESCO participated in the third High-level Group Meeting of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Dakar, where he provided detailed information on some UNESCO activities that foster greater mutual respect among different cultural and religious groups.

III. The role of civil society

55. In its resolution 60/3, the General Assembly encouraged civil society to further strengthen its efforts in furtherance of the objectives of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. In the framework of the Decade, a short declaration on the culture of peace was adopted by the UNESCO non-governmental organization Working Group for a Culture of Peace and the Decade and presented at the annual congress of the International Conference of Non-governmental Organizations, held at UNESCO headquarters in December 2005 on "Knowledge for All, Assuring Sustainable Development".

56. To further strengthen the activities undertaken for promoting a culture of peace, including the dissemination of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a

Culture of Peace, UNESCO accorded patronage to the second International Salon for Peace Initiatives, held in Paris from 2 to 4 June 2006, and participated in the event, which was attended by nearly 13,000 visitors. Visitors had the opportunity to meet and get involved with organizations that are promoting a culture of peace. UNESCO participation included holding an exhibition with the French National Commission on UNESCO activities to promote the culture of peace and organizing, in coordination with the French National Commission, a round table on "Promoting a Culture of Peace: How to Go Further" in order to discuss approaches to sustain action for the remaining years of the Decade.

57. The UNESCO Culture of Peace Coordination Unit will also be organizing, in October 2006, in coordination with the French National Commission and the Culture of Peace Working Group, a round table on fostering democratic citizenship. To raise awareness further about the Decade, the Unit will also organize, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Education for Peace Prize, events to celebrate the International Day of Peace, on 21 September 2006.

IV. Communication and networking arrangements

58. The Culture of Peace Coordination Unit continued to collect and disseminate information on contributions to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) through the culture of peace website that was established during the International Year for the Culture of Peace (2000) and through related Listserve. The UNESCO culture of peace website serves as a rallying point for Decade activities and as a "resource centre", with tools that enable actors to better promote the culture of peace.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

59. **Member States are encouraged to do the following:**

- **Ratify UNESCO legal instruments for the protection of cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on capacity-building, training and awareness-building strategies so that all peoples and nations can preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect**
- **Increase educational efforts to develop curriculums, textbooks and activities that teach cultural and religious tolerance, ways of resolving conflicts peacefully, human rights and active citizenship**
- **Promote the objectives of the Decade through activities at the local, national and international levels and take the necessary steps to ensure that political and legal systems, institutions, organizations and practices are more participatory so that they do not marginalize, exclude or discriminate against certain sectors of society**
- **Observe 21 September as the International Day of Peace, a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282**

- **Ensure access to communication and information technologies for marginalized communities in order to close the digital divide and to ensure the free flow of ideas so that all cultures and peoples have the ability to express themselves and to make themselves known**

- **Urge the media at the international and national levels to support the global campaign for a culture of peace as well as the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples.**

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Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/17 of 19 December 2003.[1]

* A/61/150.

[1] In paragraph 4 (d) of its resolution 58/316 of 13 July 2004, the General Assembly decided that the item entitled "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin" would be considered every three years.

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Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the action taken by the organization on the return and restitution of cultural property to its countries of origin

Summary

The present report, which covers a three-year period, describes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aimed at facilitating the return and restitution of cultural property illicitly removed from its country of origin. In addition to promoting and assisting Member States in the national implementation of the relevant international standard-setting instruments, UNESCO has adopted a model export certificate for cultural objects, launched a Cultural Heritage Laws Database and taken steps to fulfil the recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions (held in 2003 and 2005, respectively).

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I. Introduction

1. Since the submission of the previous report by the Director-General (see A/58/314), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has continued its work towards the return and restitution of illicitly removed cultural property to its countries of origin. In addressing this issue, UNESCO has promoted the relevant international standard-setting instruments, worked directly with its member States as well as partner governmental and non-governmental organizations and taken steps to raise public awareness of relevant restitution and illicit trafficking issues. In particular, efforts have been made to fulfil the recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions (held in 2003 and 2005, respectively). The recommendations adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session are attached (see annex I).[1] The next session of the Committee will take place in the first half of 2007.

2. At the thirteenth session of the Committee, held in Paris from 7 to 10 February 2005, 20 of the 22 Committee members were represented. Sixty-two States members of UNESCO that are not members of the Committee were also inscribed as observers, as were two permanent observer missions to the organization, six intergovernmental organizations and two non-governmental organizations.

3. The secretariat reported to the Committee at its thirteenth session on developments since the Committee's previous session, including progress on the recommendations made at the twelfth session, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects as well as on UNESCO activities to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property. In the 15 months since the last Committee session took place, the numbers of States parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention have risen to 109 and 27, respectively. In May 2006, UNESCO published a new concise handbook on legal and practical measures against illicit trafficking in cultural property in English, French, and Spanish. A training course in Object-ID was organized for Palestinian experts in Ramallah from 7 to 10 November 2005. On 24 June 2005, UNESCO held a joint conference with UNIDROIT on the theme "Cooperation in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural property", which featured guest speakers from UNIDROIT, Interpol and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention. A number of regional and subregional meetings were also organized by UNESCO to discuss in detail issues related to illicit trafficking and restitution, with the inclusion of expert participants from, for example, Interpol and ICOM and customs officials.

4. The two pending cases for restitution were reviewed by the Committee at its thirteenth session: the request by Greece for the return of the Parthenon Marbles from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, brought before the

[1] The previous report submitted by the Director-General in 2003 included the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session in 2003.

Committee in 1984, and the request by Turkey for the return of the Boguskoy Sphinx from Germany, brought before the Committee in 1986.

5. Regarding the first case and pursuant to Recommendation No. 1 adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session, the Director-General renewed efforts to hold a meeting between Greece and the United Kingdom. The secretariat attended a meeting that took place between the two countries' representatives on 4 December 2003 in London during which it was clarified that (a) because of the legal status of the British Museum, which makes it independent in this regard from the Government of the United Kingdom, it is the prerogative of the Board of Trustees of the British Museum to determine the disposition of the Parthenon Marbles; and (b) the independent status of the British Museum may be changed by a law, but the Government of the United Kingdom is not currently considering a revision of the legislation on this matter.

6. The delegate from Greece and the observer from the United Kingdom presented the Committee with their respective positions and in particular highlighted the recent increase in discussions and bilateral exchanges concerning the issue. The former emphasized the importance of continuing bilateral negotiations and informed the Committee about the new policy of Greece pertaining to broader museum and academic/archaeological cooperation between Greece and the United Kingdom. The observer from the United Kingdom noted Greece's proposals and suggested that the bilateral negotiations should continue and that the subject does not need to be discussed every two years. The observer from the United Kingdom also recalled that since the British Museum was independent of the Government, it rested with the Board Trustees of the British Museum to decide on the matter. Following discussions together, the delegate from Greece and the observer from the United Kingdom jointly presented to the Committee a draft recommendation on the Parthenon Marbles that the Committee adopted (see recommendation No. 1 of annex I).

7. The Boguskoy Sphinx is located in the Berlin Museum. Following the adoption of Recommendation No. 2 by the Committee at its eleventh session, Germany and Turkey were invited to continue to meet with a view to bringing this issue to a mutually acceptable solution, and the Director-General was invited to use his good offices to assist. The secretariat offered to convene a meeting between the two States if they so wished. In his presentation to the Committee, the delegate from Turkey provided some historical background of the case, mentioned returns made in years past by Germany to Turkey of another sphinx and cuneiform tablets, and expressed a desire for progress in negotiations regarding the Boguskoy Sphinx. The observer from Germany informed the Committee that the Sphinx was inventoried in the Berlin Museum but that related documentation had been destroyed during the Second World War and that documentation contributing to the legal grounds of this case would be welcomed. Germany has also offered to provide Turkey with a replica of the Boguskoy Sphinx. Turkey and Germany jointly presented to the Committee a draft recommendation that the Committee adopted (see Recommendation No. 2 of Annex I).

8. A distinguished and more recent development is that in early 2006, the United Republic of Tanzania formally filed a request before the Committee for restitution of a Makonde mask held in Switzerland. A reply from Switzerland is expected.

II. Strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property

9. In 2003 the UNESCO General Conference, at its thirty-second session, adopted a resolution requesting the Director-General to prepare a strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property. The Committee discussed a number of initiatives to present to the Director-General for consideration when preparing his report on the matter. In particular, the strengthening of the Committee's mandate to include mediation or conciliation processes among its functions relating to the return or restitution of cultural property was discussed in detail and widely supported. Promotion of the activities of the Committee and the possibility of the Committee holding mandatory annual sessions were also discussed. The meeting proposed an international conference on return and restitution difficulties and solutions, and Greece offered to host such a meeting if funds were made available. The development of a specific communication strategy was also recommended. Concerning the issue of holding regular sessions of the Committee annually instead of every two years as currently, the Committee did not express a clear preference and noted that holding meetings annually would have budgetary implications. It was also noted that the current periodicity (Article 6 (1) of the Statutes) ensures flexibility, since the Committee may wish to convene its ordinary sessions annually should it deem it necessary. The Committee, in its Recommendation No. 3, invited the Director-General to take note of its observations when elaborating his strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property.

10. At its thirty-third session, the UNESCO General Conference reviewed the issue and decided to endorse the consolidated elements towards a strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property and to amend the Statutes of the Committee so as to add the new functions of mediation and conciliation to the Committee's mandate.

III. Model export certificate for cultural objects

11. During the thirteenth session of the Committee, the model export certificate for cultural objects, which was developed jointly by UNESCO and the World Customs Organization (WCO) as a tool to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, was presented by the secretariat. The secretariat also informed the Committee that the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of WCO were sending a joint letter and CD-ROM containing the model certificate to their respective member States recommending that it be adopted in its entirety or in part as their national export certificate. Interpol expressed support for the wide adoption of the model export certificate. The Committee also favoured, in general, its use as reflected in Recommendation No. 8, which supports the model export certificate. Since the recommendation was adopted, a number of countries have informed UNESCO and/or WCO that they are adopting the model export certificate as their national export certificate.

IV. Principles Relating to Cultural Objects Displaced in Relation to the Second World War

12. During the thirteenth session of the Committee, a presentation was given by the secretariat on the elaboration of a draft of the Principles Relating to Cultural Objects Displaced in Relation to the Second World War. The presentation made reference to the two expert meetings that developed the draft principles, the consideration of the item by the Committee at its twelfth session, the invitation to UNESCO member States to comment on the draft principles and procedural aspects related to whether they should be adopted by the Committee and/or submitted to the General Conference. It was reiterated that the draft principles are non-binding but are designed to facilitate bilateral inter-State negotiations, and that they are not intended to amend or abrogate existing bilateral or multilateral agreements on the subject.

13. It was noted that there have been other situations, such as colonization, that have resulted in significant losses of cultural property. The Committee observed that while the draft principles pertain only to the specific situation of the Second World War, other similar sets of principles could be developed in future to assist States in resolving disputes related to other periods of history that had seen massive displacement of cultural property from its countries of origin.

14. At the end of the discussion, the Committee decided to invite the Director-General to inscribe on the draft agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Conference a point for discussion on the draft principles, and member States' observations as compiled by the secretariat, for consideration, final revision and possible adoption of the draft principles, and recommended that appropriate intergovernmental meetings be held before the adoption. Recommendation No. 4, which was adopted by the Committee, reflects those points. Subsequently, at its thirty-third session, the General Conference decided that (a) the subject of cultural objects displaced in connection with the Second World War should be the subject of a standard-setting instrument, and (b) the form of that instrument should be a non-binding declaration of principles. The Director-General was invited to submit a draft of the declaration of principles to the General Conference at its thirty-fourth session after convening an intergovernmental meeting to elaborate such a draft. The intergovernmental meeting was held from 19 to 21 July 2006.

V. Cultural Heritage Laws Database

15. The UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database was officially launched by the Committee at its thirteenth session in 2005. The database aims to make easily available, via the Internet, the cultural heritage legislation of member States. It is particularly useful to organizations, institutions, private centres or individuals that have a legal question concerning an object that may have been stolen, pillaged or illegally excavated, exported or imported and/or that may be subject to State ownership under the relevant legislation. The secretariat launched the database live, online, providing its web address (www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws) and explaining its structure and content and how it functions (provided in English, French and Spanish).

16. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with this initiative, noting that it would provide a useful tool in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and facilitating its restitution. The Committee emphasized the need for all countries to provide their legislation in electronic format for inclusion in the database, to produce official translations of such texts (primarily into English and French), to provide regular updates of the information on the database and to promote it. Recommendation No. 5 was adopted by the Committee on this item. To date, the database contains legislation from 40 countries. Since the adoption of the recommendation, the United States of America has provided $203,400 in extrabudgetary funds to enhance the database software and facilitate the translation of legislation into English.

VI. Intergovernmental Committee Fund

17. The secretariat informed the Committee that the Fund, whose operational guidelines were adopted at and distributed following the Committee's previous session, remained inactive, with €29,342 (donated by Greece) still unutilized. As requested by the Committee at its twelfth session, the secretariat prepared an explanatory note on the procedure to be followed for the assessment of the submitted projects pursuant to the operational guidelines of the Fund. The document was carefully examined, revised and adopted (see annex III). Points of discussion included the possibility for projects to be submitted in one of the six languages of the General Conference and the need to promote the Fund.

VII. Afghanistan and Iraq

18. The efforts of UNESCO to retrieve and restore Afghan cultural heritage have included providing suggestions towards new national legislation dealing with cultural heritage protection, the reconstruction of the Kabul National Museum, discussions with officials of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on seized Afghan cultural objects as to the best methods for their restitution and campaigns to raise public awareness on the trade of illicitly trafficked Afghan cultural heritage. UNESCO and Interpol cooperate in providing information on objects stolen from the Kabul Museum for inclusion in the Interpol database.

19. With regard to Iraq, the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq was held from 22 to 23 June 2006; projects under the United Nations Development Group Trust Fund for Iraq are under way and some have been completed, and a training course for Iraqis on the Object-ID standard for identifying cultural objects has taken place. Cooperation with Interpol includes the maintenance of a database of stolen Iraqi cultural property and the creation of the Interpol expert group on stolen cultural property (both established in partnership with UNESCO).

20. The delegates of Afghanistan and Iraq (with members of the Committee) prepared a draft recommendation on the cultural heritage of Afghanistan and Iraq concerning the implementation of initiatives (training and technical resources) aimed at strengthening their national capacities to protect it. Following the discussion, the Committee adopted Recommendation No. 8.

VIII. Conclusions

21. The matter of restitution or return to the country of origin of cultural objects that have been misappropriated or illicitly trafficked can be legally, factually and historically complex, as well as politically and socially sensitive. UNESCO, through the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, contributes to the specific issue of restitution by facilitating bilateral negotiations thereon between member States and also addresses the root of the problem by working with its member States and partners to combat illicit trafficking. While UNESCO provides normative instruments (such as conventions), a forum for discussion (such as the Committee), information and training on the issues (such as publications, regional meetings and Object ID training) and practical tools to assist its member States (such as the legislation database or model export certificate), it remains up to the States themselves to be fully engaged and to develop and implement integrated and comprehensive national policies to properly address those issues. Progress is certainly being made, as a majority of States are now party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention, have developed inventories, implemented security measures and undertaken public information campaigns. Greater attention is also being paid to specific cases of restitution requests, notably directed towards museums in the west that have important antiquities collections. Each such case is entirely unique and negotiations between the parties are private and complex. UNESCO, if requested by a member State, provides information on and assistance to discussions thereon within its mandate.

IX. Recommendations

22. **Member States that have not already done so should promptly consider joining:**

(a) **The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999);**

(b) **The 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;**

(c) **The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;**

(d) **The 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.**

23. **Member States should revise and strengthen national legislation in order to better protect cultural properties by addressing issues that include but are not limited to:**

(a) **Establishing State ownership of any cultural property not yet excavated or illicitly excavated;**

(b) **Establishing clear sanctions for violations;**

(c) **Regulating the excavation of archaeological sites;**

(d) **Establishing effective export and import regimes and controls;**

(e) **Establishing a national inventory of cultural properties.**

24. **Member States are encouraged to develop a strong national policy specific to cultural heritage protection that includes, among other things, coordination between relevant ministries, training of professionals in the field, cooperation with international and regional agencies and public awareness campaigns on the need to protect cultural heritage and to fight against illicit trafficking.**

25. **Member States are requested to undertake specific practical measures in order to better protect cultural heritage, including but not limited to:**

(a) **Establishing inventories using the Object-ID standard as a minimum level of identification;**

(b) **Using export certificates, and considering the UNESCO/WCO model export for cultural objects;**

(c) **Posting relevant national legislation on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database;**

(d) **Providing specialized training to police and customs agents;**

(e) **Promptly reporting all thefts to Interpol and furnishing the appropriate information and photographs;**

(f) **Encouraging dealers to keep registries of all purchases and sales of cultural objects including all relevant information on such transactions;**

(g) **Monitoring sales of cultural objects on the Internet;**

(h) **Ensuring the broad use of anti-theft and other security measures;**

(i) **Promoting the UNESCO international code of ethics for dealers in cultural property.**

Annex I

Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation at its thirteenth session

7-10 February 2005, Paris

Recommendation No. 1

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Expressing its concern for the resolution of the issue of the Parthenon Marbles,

Acknowledging past UNESCO recommendations regarding the return of the Parthenon Marbles in London to their country of origin,

1. *Takes note* of the meeting between the Ministries of Culture of Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland attended by a UNESCO representative in 2003 and a meeting in 2005,

2. *Takes note* of the continuing cooperation between the British Museum and Greek museums which will serve as a model for a collaboration on the display and presentation of the Parthenon Marbles,

3. *Takes note* of the construction of the new Acropolis museum, and

4. *Invites* the Director-General:

(a) To encourage further exchange of expert information in the areas of understanding, research and museology;

(b) To assist in facilitating further meetings between the United Kingdom and Greece before the next session of the Committee, with a view to resolving the issue of the Parthenon Marbles, taking into account at the same time the sensitivities of both sides.

Recommendation No. 2

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Recalling the request of Turkey for the Sphinx of Boğazköy, which is currently on display in the Berlin Museum,

Noting the legal and cultural arguments that have been made by both States concerned over a number of years,

Recalling the previous recommendations adopted by the Committee on this question at its sixth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions,

Aware of the continuing concern of Turkey for the long awaited resolution of the issue of the Sphinx,

Noting also that the 7,400 cuneiform tablets which were part of the original request of 1987 of Turkey to the German Democratic Republic were returned,

Expresses its hope that the pending request of Turkey with regard to the issue of the Sphinx will be solved through bilateral negotiations,

Takes note of the fact that the bilateral negotiations on this issue which took place on 19 November 2002, in Berlin, did not reach a solution,

1. *Invites* both parties to continue comprehensive bilateral negotiations with a view to bringing this issue to a mutually acceptable solution;

2. *Also invites* the Director-General to continue his good offices towards the resolution of this issue and to report to the Committee at its fourteenth session.

Recommendation No. 3

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Considering that resolution 38, which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its thirty-second session, invited the Director-General inter alia, to present to the UNESCO Executive Board a strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property, and that paragraph 9 of the resolution makes specific references to the mandate and functioning of the Intergovernmental Committee,

Noting that the Director-General had expressed the view that it would be more effective to have the Committee's observations on resolution 38 with a view to considering them when elaborating a strategy to submit to the Executive Board at its one hundred seventy-first session,

Recalling the current mandate and functioning of the Committee as set forth in its Statutes and Rules of Procedure,

1. *Invites* the Director-General to take note of the following observations when elaborating a strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property pursuant to resolution 38:

(a) The Committee is supportive of the proposition to strengthen its mandate, inter alia in terms of proposals of mediation and conciliation. While acknowledging that such procedures require the consent of both parties concerned to enter into the process and are not binding on them, such tools can expand the role of the Committee and provide UNESCO member States with more options from which to choose, without prejudice to still other means of resolving disputes concerning the return or restitution of cultural property;

(b) The mediation or conciliation procedure can be initiated in one of two ways, either by the concerned parties following a recommendation by the Committee or directly by the concerned parties;

(c) The role of mediator may be conferred on one or more individuals chosen by the concerned parties and could include but not be limited to any of the following:

(i) A representative of one or more State(s) member(s) of the Committee;

(ii) A qualified representative of the UNESCO secretariat; or

(iii) An outside person(s), institution, or other body pre-selected by the Committee;

(d) Available, recognized models for the settlement of disputes should be considered for useful characteristics that could be drawn from them if rules of conciliation specific to cases of return or restitution of cultural property are to be developed;

(e) The role of conciliator should be conferred on an individual or group of individuals chosen by the parties for that purpose rather than on the Committee as a whole or the secretariat;

(f) The mediation and conciliation procedures should be autonomous and not prejudice other like procedures. They should be conducted with confidentiality and transparency and in accordance with general principles of fairness, impartiality, cooperation in good faith and international cultural property law. The parties agreeing to this procedure should participate in a motivated, loyal, responsible manner and should equally share the responsibility of its success or lack thereof;

(g) The parties participating in a mediation or conciliation procedure should equally bear the costs thereof unless the services of the mediator or conciliator are provided on a voluntary basis, the costs are covered by another organization or the parties make some other agreement on sharing costs;

(h) A time limit, beyond which the issue that has not been resolved will no longer be considered subject to conciliation and mediation, should not be set by the Committee. However, the body or individual conducting the mediation or conciliation procedure may, with the agreement of the parties involved, set a time limit for the specific procedure under way. The parties concerned shall report on the procedure to the following session of the Committee.

(i) Promotion of the activities of the Committee could be ensured by, inter alia:

(i) Information dissemination (publications, websites and media exposure);

(ii) Publicizing eventual use and success of the International Fund of the Committee;

(iii) Hosting an international conference on the difficulties and solutions involved in return and restitution (if funds are made available);

(iv) Developing regional frameworks to guide the organization of national and regional seminars in the field of return and restitution of or illicit trafficking in cultural property;

(v) Developing a communications strategy to raise the attention of the media and the public at large and engage them in a proactive manner;

(j) With respect to mandatory annual sessions of the Committee, no clear preference was expressed.

Recommendation No. 4

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Recalling that Recommendation No. 7, which was adopted by the Committee at its tenth session, among other things invited the Director-General to convene a working group of experts on the settlement of disputes concerning cultural objects displaced in relation to the Second World War,

Noting that two meetings of experts (held in Paris in May 2000 and December 2002) on this issue resulted in the elaboration of non-legally binding (soft law) draft principles relating to cultural objects displaced in relation to the Second World War,

Noting further that following the adoption by the Committee at its twelfth session of Recommendation No. 7, which among other things invited all UNESCO member States to provide the secretariat with their observations on the draft principles in order to make them available to the Committee at its thirteenth session, the secretariat then received nine sets of observations,

Thanking the States that provided comments for their observations,

Emphasizing that the main aim of the draft principles is to facilitate bilateral or multilateral negotiations of the settlement of disputes concerning cultural objects displaced in relation to the Second World War and that they are not intended to replace, modify or abrogate existing bilateral or multilateral agreements on this subject,

Acknowledging the richness of and the varied positions that emerged from the discussion of this sensitive and complex subject,

1. *Approves* in principle the draft principles as they stand and takes note of the discussion thereon as well as the written comments provided by UNESCO member States pursuant to the above-mentioned Recommendation No. 7 (adopted at the twelfth session);

2. *Invites* the Director-General, when transmitting the report of the Committee to the General Conference, to inscribe on the draft agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Conference a point for discussion on the draft principles and member States' observations as compiled by the secretariat, for consideration, final revision and possible adoption of the draft principles and recommends that appropriate intergovernmental meetings be held before their adoption;

3. *Invites* all member States to forward to the secretariat by 1 June 2005 their observations on the draft principles for consideration in a compiled form by the General Conference at its thirty-third session;

4. *Decides* to submit to the General Conference at its thirty-third session the draft principles for consideration, final revision and possible adoption.

Recommendation No. 5

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Aware that international availability of national cultural heritage legislation is a priority since it offers better protection to cultural property,

Recalling that Recommendation No. 5, which was adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session, among other things invited the Director-General to establish and maintain on the UNESCO website a legislation database that includes cultural heritage legislation from all member States as well as links to their relevant websites, to request member States to cooperate fully in this endeavour and to provide legal translations of submitted legislation, primarily into French and English, for inclusion in the database,

Noting that the project of the creation of the legislation database received wide support in Commission IV of the thirty-second General Conference,

Noting further the Director-General's circular letter 3694 of December 2003 which announced the establishment of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database and invited UNESCO member States to provide to the secretariat in electronic format their cultural heritage legislation, import and/or export certificate where appropriate, official translations of legislation as available, contact information and website links, along with authorization for inclusion of the foregoing on the database,

1 *Invites* the Director-General to:

(a) Further promote in all possible ways the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database, including the creation of a budgetary line in the UNESCO ordinary budget for the Culture Sector in order to ensure on a regular basis the necessary human and financial resources for the development and maintenance of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database, especially for the translation of texts not submitted in English or French;

(b) Send a reminder letter to member States on a regular basis inviting them to submit their legislation if they have not already done so, and for those member States that have submitted legislation, to confirm that the information on the website is still current and correct;

2 *Invites* UNESCO member States to:

(a) Support the creation of a priority budgetary line in the UNESCO ordinary budget for the Culture Sector in order to ensure on a regular basis the necessary human and financial resources for the development and maintenance of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database;

(b) Provide extrabudgetary contributions to the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database;

(c) Provide the secretariat with electronic versions of their national cultural heritage legislation in compliance with the Director-General's circular letter 3694;

(d) Ensure that notice of any amendment to, change in or adoption of new legislation in this field is provided to the secretariat so that the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database is kept up to date;

(e) Provide official legal translations of their legislation into other languages, primarily French and English, for inclusion in the database.

Recommendation No. 6

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation

Aware of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2000 between UNESCO and the World Customs Organization that provides a framework for cooperation to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property,

Considering the practical and legal benefit that a model export certificate for cultural objects would bring to States in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property in general, and to customs officers specifically in their work, if it is extensively adopted worldwide and therefore operates as a standard,

Noting the joint work of the UNESCO and World Customs Organization secretariats in elaborating the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects and corresponding Explanatory Notes,

1. *Invites* the Director-General to promote the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects and its Explanatory Notes and to recommend to UNESCO member States to consider adopting it as they deem appropriate;

2. *Invites* UNESCO member States to consider:

(a) Adopting, in its entirety or in part, the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects as their national export certificate within the ambit of their national law for such specific objects;

(b) Providing specialized training to customs and police officials dealing in the movement of cultural objects so as to facilitate a diligent surveillance and control thereof;

3. *Invites* UNESCO member States to report to the secretariat information concerning the application of the Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects.

Recommendation No. 7

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Considering that resolution 27, which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its thirtieth session, invited the Director-General to establish the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation within UNESCO financed by voluntary contributions and designed to finance specific projects submitted to the Committee,

Recalling the Director-General's 2001 Appeal for donations to the Fund,

Thanking the Government of Greece for the first financial contribution to the Fund,

Considering further the operational guidelines, sample project document and model for the presentation of projects adopted by the Committee during its twelfth session, as well as the procedure to be followed for the assessment of projects adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session,

1. *Invites* UNESCO member States and others to make voluntary donations to the Fund;

2. *Invites* the Director-General to continue to ensure the effective promotion and management of the Fund;

3. *Invites* the Director-General to produce a promotional brochure that will raise awareness of the Fund so as to encourage contributions to the Fund and to explain the conditions and procedure for presenting a project thereto.

Recommendation No. 8

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation

Recalling the gravity of the post-conflict situations in Afghanistan and Iraq,

Reiterating the importance of the follow-up of those situations,

Encouraging the strengthening and continuation of the initiatives already undertaken by UNESCO, Interpol, the Italian Carabinieri and others,

1. *Invites* the Director-General, in the case of Iraq, to:

(a) Establish a group of international experts who will evaluate the situation of the most important sites;

(b) Reinforce the implementation of initiatives already established, including:

(i) The delivery of technical means (communications and transportation) to endangered sites;

(ii) The training of personnel responsible for protection of cultural heritage; and

(iii) The database which UNESCO will make available to States, organizations and interested bodies;

2. *Invites* the Director-General, in the case of Afghanistan, to:

(a) Facilitate the delivery of technical means (communication and transportation) to endangered sites;

(b) Contribute to the training of personnel responsible for the protection of cultural heritage;

(c) Reinforce the implementation of initiatives already established, including:

(i) The group of international experts who will evaluate the situation of the most important sites; and

(ii) The database, which UNESCO will make available to states, organizations and interested bodies;

3. *Invites* the secretariat to provide a comprehensive report on the above to the next session of the Committee.

Recommendation No. 9

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Recalling its role to foster public information campaigns on the real nature, scale and scope of the problem of restitution or return of cultural property to its countries of origin,

Concerned by the continuing and increasing illicit traffic in cultural property and the need for a more concerted, multilevel effort to combat this problem,

Noting the increasing number of requests for the return or restitution of cultural property based on both moral and legal grounds and the need for more intense action and discussion at the national, regional and international levels on these matters,

1. *Invites* the Director-General to examine the possibility of financing an international conference of experts and actors in the field of return and restitution of cultural property to analyse the existing legal and moral grounds associated with this issue, identify appropriate reinforcement of the existing legal and practical tools for and growing trends in this field, and propose future action thereon, noting the generous offer of the Government of Greece to be the venue;

2. *Invites* member States to:

(a) If they have not yet become party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, consider doing so;

(b) Provide to the secretariat detailed information on any successfully concluded case of return or restitution of cultural property, whether procured through bilateral negotiation or legal proceeding;

(c) Make use of the Object-ID standard and in particular encourage the photographing of cultural property, and wherever possible develop more thorough, scientific inventories of cultural property;

(d) Raise public awareness of the problem of illicit trafficking of cultural property and promote the International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property;

(e) Examine the possibility of establishing concrete mechanisms or activities to create and implement regional networks for the restitution of cultural property to its countries of origin in close cooperation with law enforcement agencies (such as Interpol) under the auspices of UNESCO.

Annex II

Decision of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation at its thirteenth session

7-10 February 2005, Paris

Decision, 10 February 2005

The Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation,

Recalling recommendation No. 6, adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session, which invites the Director-General to prepare an explanatory note on the procedure to be followed for the assessment of the submitted projects pursuant to the operational guidelines of the Fund,

Taking note of the Guidelines of the Fund adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session,

1. *Decides* to adopt as procedure to be followed for the assessment of the submitted projects pursuant to the operational guidelines of the Fund, the procedure (CLT-2005/CONF/202.3), as amended by the Committee during its thirteenth session.

Annex III

Procedure to be followed for the assessment of projects for the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation

1. Upon receipt of a project by the secretariat on behalf of the Committee, its receipt will be acknowledged and it will receive a registration number. The secretariat shall inform the Chairperson of the Committee and the Director-General about it.

2. A project should be sent in one of the six languages of the General Conference, it will be considered after having been translated into one of the working languages of the secretariat.

3. The secretariat will assess if the documentation and information provided to support the project is sufficient to be considered by the Committee pursuant to the Fund guidelines, and in particular whether the requisite criteria and conditions for submitting projects set forth in sections II and III have been met. If not, the secretariat will so inform the entity that submitted the project and request complementary documentation and information.

4. Once the documentation and information are deemed sufficient in accordance with paragraph 3 above, the secretariat will prepare a preassessment of the project in terms of its possible compliance with the Fund guidelines, in particular their criteria and conditions.

5. The secretariat will communicate the results of the preassessment to the members of the Committee prior to its next scheduled session for consideration and the final assessment and decision by the Committee at that session.

6. If the project is presented for emergency funding pending the forthcoming session of the Committee and such emergency is confirmed in the assessment by the secretariat of the information and documentation provided (paragraph 3 above), the preassessment by the secretariat will be accelerated and its results submitted directly to the Chairperson of the Committee for consideration and possible decision (up to a maximum amount of $10,000 as per section III of the Fund guidelines). The Chairperson will notify the secretariat in writing of the decision taken.

7. The secretariat will duly inform the entity that submitted the project of the final decision of the Committee or, for emergency projects, of the Chairperson. The Chairperson will report on the matter of emergency projects to the next session of the Committee.

8. For any approved project, the secretariat will inform the Director-General, confirm acceptance of the project to the entity that submitted the project, and undertake the transfer of the granted assistance and/or funds to the entity.

9. For any approved project, the entity that submitted the project must present a report on activities completed, written in one of the six languages of the General Conference, to the Committee by its next scheduled meeting or at any other date fixed by the Committee.